Personal Statement

Having majored in computer science for two years, I am now a junior student in UESTC (University of Electronic Science and Technology of China). My professional goal is to become a programmer in the Silicon Valley. I can complete a project about computer as a leader in the team. I take part in this exchange program to better my communication skills in English, and meantime get further education in specific fields in computer science.

The reason why I choose UC Berkeley is your faculty. UC Berkeley has the most Turing Awarders in the world. I have more chance to get in touch with these masters on your campus, listening to their lectures, taking their courses if I may. Also, I appreciate the free atmosphere in UC Berkeley. The famous version of UNIX, BSD, was developed and maintained in UC Berkeley. Personally, I am the strong supporter for the open-source software. Open-source software allows the talented engineers to study the source codes and modify it to achieve the particular demands. This may lead to the evolution in certain field. In another word, I have great motivation to apply for the master degree in UC Berkeley. This exchange program offers me the opportunity to experience the real campus life in UC Berkeley. I take it as an assessment of my ability to catch up with the hard courses in UC Berkeley.

In the past two years in UESTC, I take many fundamental courses in computer science. These courses help me build up a basic idea of how the computer work and how the codes are transferred into the executable file. However, I must admit that even though I achieve high grades in my courses, my programming ability has not improved much because teachers focus more on theories than the application. That is a common problem for many Chinese universities. But I learn it from my friends in the USA that your courses have equal requirements for theory and application. That is very important for me. I decide to become an engineer after graduation. Even though the theory sounds very easy, when you want to put it into practice, there are always countless bugs in your codes. You have to take all the influential factors into the consideration when you want to use the program to solve a problem.

I have a full plan for my study in UC Berkeley. For the regular courses, I am quite interested in CS, like ‘Python for Programmers’, ‘The Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs’, ‘Operating Systems and System Programming’ since my major is about that. I have decided to take the course ‘Python for Programmers’. Python is a useful programming language in many aspects of computer science, for example, data mining. I want to have a good programming fundamental for my future decision. Also, the course ‘The Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs’ is on my course list. As I mention before, Chinese courses usually ignore the section of coding. In that case, even though we succeed to our programming homework, our codes are usually redundant and unfriendly for others to read and modify. Another course I want to take is ‘Operating Systems and System Programming’. Nearly all the programs run on the operating system. If I can figure out how the API work in detail, it is much easier for me to improve the efficiency of the codes.

I fully understand your policy for the international student. I may not have the chance to take some regular course because you have to make sure that your own students can take the course first. I would also be delightful to take the extension courses like ‘Building Your Private Cloud With Linux’, ‘Data Mining Using SQL’, ‘LINUX COMMAND LINE: AN INTRODUCTION’, ‘[Project Leadership and Building High-Performing Teams](http://extension.berkeley.edu/search/publicCourseSearchDetails.do?method=load&courseId=40329)’. The course ‘Building Your Private Cloud With Linux’ is very useful in our daily life. Cloud storage is now very popular all around the world. You can upload your unnecessary files into your cloud storage so your disk can be free to store the essential files. However, you have to pay some money for the service provider and there are some probabilities that your account is hacked by some means and your private files get public. So building your private cloud can guarantee a higher safety and reduce your cost for the storage. For the course ‘Data Mining Using SQL’, I have taken a course about SQL in China so it is much easier for me to perform well in the course. Data mining is a hot topic in CS. I also want to do some researches in this field in master career so taking this course can offer some basic skills for my future study. ‘LINUX COMMAND LINE: AN INTRODUCTION’ is also essential for the programmer. Nearly all the servers run on Linux operating system. It can save your time when you master useful commands. Anyway, I want to make full use of time to learn more as far as I can. To improve my academic skills and widen my scope. Besides, I am also interested in courses about management like ‘[Project Leadership and Building High-Performing Teams](http://extension.berkeley.edu/search/publicCourseSearchDetails.do?method=load&courseId=40329)’. Software development consists a group of people. How to manage the group member and motivate them to achieve high efficiency is key to a group leader. This course will prepare me for my future career and help me manage the project more wisely.

There will also be many problems for me to live on campus in a country of different culture. The professor will interact with students more often than in Chinese. That means I need to listen to what others proposed and how the professor solves the problem. The problems are not always included in the lecture that the professor has prepared. I will not only write down these key points but also try to raise some questions to understand it better. Despite my study, I also intend to take part in some outdoor activities on campus. American football and basketball are popular in the United States. Personally, I would like to try the American football on the campus because this sport has not been popular in China and I had no access to play it in the field. Also, Berkeley is very close to the Oracle Arena, the home for Golden Warriors, one of the best teams in NBA. I strongly have the intention to watch the live game in the arena