

**Item 28****Personal Statement****Vincent Sitzmann****June 17, 2014**

Three things that characterize me are my fascination for engineering, my curiosity for other cultures, and my determination to excel in my passions. These three attributes can be seen throughout my personal and academic development, and they motivate my desire to study at a top tier US university.

My father, who is an electrical engineer himself, was always keen to explain to me how everyday things work. When I was eleven, I taught myself how to program and how to build electrical circuits for amplifiers. After my university entrance diploma, I put my self-taught programming skills into practice and developed the application GuitarAddict during an internship at Nokia. Since then, the app has been downloaded more than 150,000 times.

In September 2011, I started Bachelor studies in electrical engineering at the Technical University of Munich (TUM). I chose the TUM as it is the best engineering school in Germany, has strong ties to international partner institutions, and has a high percentage of international students. From the very beginning, I was committed to excel in my studies in order to qualify for scholarships and selective academic programs. In my third semester, I was admitted to the elite study program in technology management at the Center for Digital Technology and Management (CDTM).

Through traveling in foreign countries, I developed a strong curiosity for other cultures. Led by this curiosity and my wish to gain an overview of all the topics in engineering, I completed an exchange term at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. During this exchange, I not only discovered my interest in computer vision and robotics, but I also learned that the only way to understand a culture is to immerse and adapt oneself. This learning proved to be very valuable in my subsequent internship in a mainland Chinese company. During my time in Shenzhen, I managed to integrate into my Chinese team while at the same time contributing my own values and cultural understanding. Together with my Chinese local peer, I acquired three German corporate customers worth more than one million dollar for my employer.

In February 2015, I will finish my Bachelor studies at the TUM. During my graduate program, I want to study in an environment that allows me to follow my passions: entrepreneurship and computer vision. At the same time, I want to expand my horizons by getting to know other cultures and improving my intercultural competence.

The US in general and US universities specifically are a melting pot of many different cultures and nationalities. I want to experience this diversity and further enhance my intercultural understanding and communication skills. The unique business culture in the US endorses innovation and self-responsibility for one's own success. This is closely related to my goals in life. I would like my work to have a positive impact on society, and I believe that being an entrepreneur and giving rise to a new product is the best way to achieve this. I therefore want to understand why the US is so successful in nurturing innovation and revolutionizing how people experience the world.

A Fulbright fellowship would offer the opportunity to immerse myself in American culture to understand the benefits of its cultural diversity and the foundations of its entrepreneurial environment. I want to use my experience in intercultural cooperation to facilitate the exchange between the US and Germany and to contribute my own values and perspectives.