

Personal Statement

Dear Professor Lo,

Thank you for considering my application.

My name is QIN Yao. I am a fourth-year student at the Southern University of Science and Technology, majoring in Computer Science and Technology. I am writing to express my enthusiasm and dedication to furthering my education at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and being a student in your research group.

I have maintained a solid academic record during the past three years of my undergraduate studies. My current GPA is 3.91 out of 4, which is in the top 5% of my major. In my major courses, I have worked hard to build a solid foundation of professional knowledge. For instance, I have learned programming languages such as Java, C++, Python, JavaScript, SQL, and Verilog and have applied them across various projects and assignments. I have also developed some projects using Vue and Spring Boot, which made me familiar with both frontend and backend development. Moreover, I have taken some courses and completed some projects about computer networks and hardware, in which I learned some knowledge about these areas.

In my undergraduate studies, many courses required us to complete course projects. These projects helped me to understand the knowledge taught in classes better. Besides, working on group projects enhanced my practical and teamwork skills. For example, during my third year in the university, I participated in a project to develop a web application called “Project Helper”, which is a system where teachers can publish projects and assignments, students can form groups, chat with each other, and submit their projects and assignments. We used Vue and Spring Boot to develop the frontend and backend, and I designed the system architecture and implemented the functionality of team formation and assignment submission. I learned a lot about frontend and backend development during the development process and improved my team management skills.

In addition to coursework, I participated in some research projects and gained valuable research experience. In my junior year, I was involved in a research project that focused on using multi-agent reinforcement learning (MARL) algorithms to improve the efficiency of web application testing, and my work was to implement MARL algorithms based on single-agent reinforcement learning algorithms. By taking part in the project, I learned many useful research methods and skills. Eventually, our group published a paper titled "Can Cooperative Multi-Agent Reinforcement Learning Boost Automatic Web Testing? An Exploratory Study" at ASE 2024, in which I am the fourth author. We also applied for a Chinese patent, which is currently under review, with the application number 2024104232001. I am the second author of the patent.

In my spare time, I enjoy helping others. I have worked as a student assistant for the Java course for two semesters. In this role, I helped students in the course by answering their questions, explaining concepts they didn't understand from the lectures, and overcoming challenges they encountered in their studies. Additionally, I assisted the teacher in preparing assignments and writing evaluation codes to grade the students' assignments.

In summer vacations, I focused on broadening my international horizons. I took part in the National University of Singapore School of Computing Summer Workshop 2024 and chose the course Cloud Computing with Big Data. I learned a lot of new knowledge in the course and led a team to develop a cloud-native application for the course project. In the end, I got an A grade in the workshop. This workshop gave me some experience in studying abroad and provided me with some insight into the local culture.

I hope you find the above facts a valid testament to my qualifications for entering your research group. If admitted, I will continue to work hard and make efforts in research projects.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

QIN Yao