

General version of Personal statement

In the quiet of my high school biology class, the challenge hung heavy in the air: 'Who can commit explanation of the circulation system?' Summoning every ounce of courage, I lifted my hand, trembling with fear of judgment. Conquering my fear of public speaking wasn't easy. It was a battle against doubt and self-consciousness. Yet, with each hesitant word spoken, I enhanced my confidence and interest of biology.

In college, I delved into the intricate world of bioengineering with newfound confidence. Yet, the fear of public speaking still lingered. I encountered a significant challenge: presenting our team project in an experimental technique contest. Despite trembling nerves, I found my focus shifting from fear to passion and gained victory of this contest. Reflecting on this experience, I realized the power of focusing on content, rather than the outcome. Following this contest, I embarked on determining the specific subfield that captivated me. Serendipitously, an interview introduced me to the Chinese Brain Project, sparking a deep curiosity of neuroscience within me. Entering Fudan University marked the beginning of a neuroscience journey.

Immersed in neuroscience lectures and well-equipped labs in my Master of neurobiology study, I felt a sense of achievement and dream come true. Yet, amidst the excitement, life took a darker turn, I come back to home. Despite facing personal tragedy, my determination to pursue scientific exploration remained steadfast. Returning to university, I adjusted my focus, diving into an interneuron classification project for quickly graduation to rebalance my personal life. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic and dwindling job opportunities upon my graduation, I persevered with unwavering support from my family.

My resilience yielded tangible results, culminating in an offer as a clinical data analyst in a hospital. Over two years, I gained invaluable experiences, even publishing a paper. Through adversity, I learned that luck is transient, but our ability to overcome challenges fortifies us, equipping us with the courage to confront the future head-on. Confined to lockdown during my last year of work, I faced the reality of limited opportunities for doctoral studies abroad. It was during this time that I made the bold decision to embark on a second master's journey in bioinformatics at Harbin medical University (HMU).

As the rhythmic clatter of the keyboard filled my days, I joyed in learning various sequencing methods. However, amidst this technical mastery, I longed for a deeper connection—a research direction that would integrate my experiences and lead to meaningful discoveries.

It was then that fate intervened in the form of a captivating article in Cell. The depiction of glioblastoma cell migrating like neurons, forging connections with normal nerve cells to facilitate invasion, ignited fire within me. Delving into the literature on cancer neuroscience, led me desire discovery of relationship between brain tumor and neurodevelopment. It was this desire that inspired the formulation of my thesis plan—a proposal that not only secured funding from the Graduate Innovation Fund of HMU, but also symbolized my passions and aspirations in this field.

Reflecting on my journey, I am grateful for the resilience and curiosity that have driven me forward. Strengthening my self-learning abilities has instilled self-assurance in me to navigate life's uncertainties. Looking ahead, armed with resilience and a thirst for knowledge, I am poised to embrace the challenges and opportunities of doctoral study.