**In the past 3 to 4 years, what experience(s) have you had (inside or outside of the classroom) related to your selected first-choice major or academic interest?\* (150 words)**

At first, I started learning programming just to satisfy my curiosity of how software and apps were developed. This drove me to take computer science courses both inside and outside of school such as taking computer science as one of my IB higher level subjects. However, it wasn’t until I started to integrate my programming skills into real-life situations when I realised the impact technology had in making our lives convenient. During my calisthenics plateau, I coded myself a personal trainer app through the use of swift and xcode. Before I knew it, this realization turned into passion. Unsatisfied with the backend code of my app, I challenged myself by interning as a backend developer at McEasy, a logistic tech startup, where I developed my skills in SQL and had a taste of a future in computer science. Thus, confirming my passion to improve our society’s well being through codes.

**How does your selected first-choice major relate to your future career goals?\* (150 words)**

I have trust issues. Not with people, but with our data. With the fast progression of the world’s technological innovations, we trust more and more of our data to be uploaded upon the digital unknown. From our chats with friends to our financial transactions, although it makes our lives more convenient, it comes with greater security risks. I believe that extensive knowledge of algorithm developments and competence in multiple programming languages is necessary. This realization has inspired me to become a software developer that would play a vital role in advancing technology securities to the next level. Therefore, there is no better choice for me than to pursue Computer Science at UIUC. UIUC’s excellent computer science program coupled with its plethora of courses on distributed systems, networking, and security would enable me to be one step closer to my goal of developing safe and secure digital usage.