



This photo, as well as the one to the right, was submitted as part of Brian's portfolio to Carnegie Mellon University.

Q&A

with Brian '13 USA/Taiwan
By Natalia Musielak, Waterloo Co-op

Brian has been a student at LAS for four years. He will be graduating this year and attending the prestigious Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

>>> Panorama: What made you decide to apply to Carnegie Mellon University?

>>> Brian: The academic curriculum. Personally, I am interested in a more open curriculum and I like that they encourage interdisciplinary studies: how things relate to each other and work together. I also like their focus on hands on learning, which is the way I learn best.

>>> Panorama: Were there any other schools or programs that you took into consideration?

>>> Brian: I also considered the University of Rochester for the same reasons. Actually, something very interesting about Rochester is the "Take 5 Scholars Program." You can do an extra semester or year tuition-free and pursue other studies that interest

you besides your major.

>>> Panorama: Tell us a bit more about the program that you were accepted into?

>>> Brian: I got accepted into the Design Program. Design is about the interactions we have with the objects around us to better improve our lives. A good example is user interfaces, as many aspects of design are present in them.

>>> Panorama: What was the admissions process like?

>>> Brian: You have to apply to the school in general as well as apply to the specific program. The general application is standard: you submit the common application, write an essay, and fill out the application supplement, etc. For the Design Program, I submitted a portfolio with my photographic work and corresponding pages from my IB sketchbook. I also attended the optional interview for general admissions and a portfolio review with the design program faculty.

>>> Panorama: Since you were given early admission, I understand you had to commit to the school. What made you decide this program was the right choice for you?

>>> Brian: Yes, I applied under binding early decision. Since it is binding, it means I can't change my mind. I have been there to visit three times in the last year. With every visit, I was able to learn new things about the school that interested me. Besides famous alumni, knowing some alumni personally deepened my interest. It just felt right.



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>>> Panorama: Is it true that they only took four students? How do you feel being one of those lucky four?

>>> Brian: That's what the statistics say. I am not sure if it is actually true but I feel very happy. I was very excited to get the letter. It's a funny story actually, they said they would notify me before December 15th and I got the letter six hours before I was going to leave LAS to travel home to Taiwan on December 14th. I hesitated a little before opening it but when I finally did I thought, "Yes, success!"

>>> Panorama: Can you describe your visit to the university? What did you like most about the school/campus?

>>> Brian: I really like the campus and the location is perfect being just on the edge of Pittsburgh. I was lucky enough to visit not only during the summer but also during the school year so I got to peek into the classrooms and see the facilities. I really like the vibe from the faculty and student body, as well as, the extracurricular activities that are available to students. Everyone there is a "nerd" in their own area and I find it very interesting to talk to people who are experts in their field and be able to share that information in ways you never imagined.

>>> Panorama: What is your motivation for wanting to continue education and pursue postsecondary studies?

>>> Brian: I like learning and find it very interesting and fun. I learn a lot from the Internet and through doing research. Everything I know about photography is mostly self-taught from the Internet. The real reason for attending university and higher education is to have the ability to work with others and live in a community where people have common goals and are heading in the same direction. Being in a community like this also offers me a chance to work in student government, as it has always been my interest. I have been working in the LAS Student Council throughout the four years I have been here.

>>> Panorama: Do you have any career aspirations for the future – maybe a dream job?

>>> Brian: I keep changing my mind but I think my dream job would be to work for Disney in designing the theme parks. I like the title "Imagineering". It really has the dream come true factor that I have grown up with.

>>> Panorama: How did LAS help to fuel or strengthen your interest in design, photography?

>>> Brian: Before I came to LAS, I did not have much interest in photography. At LAS, I got to explore painting, drawing, sketching, music and photography. Once you find something that you are passionate about here there are people who will help you find the resources you need and help you grow and expand.

>>> Panorama: Do you have any advice for other LAS students who might want to pursue a similar path, or university in general?

>>> Brian: Research is important. If you do that you will definitely find one that is the right fit for you. Each university has their own personality and you will be able to find a school culture that will fit your personality and academic needs, which will allow you to excel.

>>> Panorama: What will you miss most about LAS?

>>> Brian: Ski season is definitely a great thing and the close relationships we have with teachers are a plus. But what I will miss most is the small community. Being in a little village with few

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