

## Personal Statement

November 24, 2020

Dear respected Sir or Madam,

It is my great honor that you are taking your time to consider my particular application. I am a Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) graduate student who is studying in the group of media informatics, Institute of computer science (IFI) at LMU. After a year of studying, I archived a total of 78 ECTS in the past two semesters, with a current grade of 2.24. However, when I look back over to my learning process, I found that HCI did not fully satisfy my desire for computer science related knowledge. After my careful consideration, I decided to apply for the Master program of computer science, and I would like to perform them in parallel. This personal statement explains how I have my ability to execute them simultaneously.

### Study and research interests

During my undergraduate education, I learned and practiced a lot of mathematics and computer science related knowledge. I believe that computing services should be interactively designed and subtly created for consumers, so I applied LMU Master program of HCI so that I can understand more knowledge from the human side and use their insights to help me improve my computer science skills, such as humanities and product design. With the increase of learning and discovering in this area, I realized that an individual degree HCI is not enough to create a revolutionary product, it is actively supported by computer science (especially when creating a new interaction technique), and I need more backgrounds and technology skill accumulations from the side of computer science. To have two different degrees in the fields of science is very common, for instance, Prof. Ohlbach hold two degrees in mathematics and physics.

Despite the major focus of HCI relates to human rather than machines, I still doubled the effort of study in computer science, coding in the most of my time in the field of machine intelligence. Recently I am mostly studying in statistic learning theory, the generalization of deep models, and engaged in many practical projects related to depth models, such as speech recognition and voice assistants for instance. Computer science and its unbreakable mathematical logic have become a “mental seal” in my mind. The role of HCI helps me understand more reasonable machine system, for example, the lecture “information visualization” discusses properties of human visual perception, it significantly influenced my cognition in convolutional neural networks.

### Former achievements and study abilities

In my undergraduate studies, I received a large number of awards (see C.V.), including Meritorious Winner of the American Mathematical Contest In Modeling. Furthermore, I have two published journal papers, and finished my Chinese bachelor degree as the best student out of 154 speaks for my academic quality. My undergraduate thesis “Designing AlternativeContact-free Control Modalities for Smart Watches” won an award of excellent bachelor paper from the college. For my graduate studies, if you take a close look at my transcript during the first year at LMU, you will find that there exist six lectures that are pure computer science lecture, and twelve overlapped courses between two programs.

I have already completed 78 ECTS credits, and 72 ECTS credits have been counted under the Master HCI Program in the first two semesters of lesson list. A different 72 ECTS applies to the program of computer science (According to Dr. Letz). In this semester (my third semester of master study), I participate in two different seminars, “Advanced Topics in Mediainformatics” and “Advanced Seminar Deep Learning”. They can even apply to each of these two different programs,

in the meantime, I am still attending a lecture "Deep Learning" from the department of statistics. Even though, there are still many many interesting courses I want to study but can not attend due to my time constraints. For instance, "Introduction to Quantum Computing" and "Complexity theory" in a winter semester, "Managing Massively Multiplayer Online Games", "Modern Computer Architecture" in a summer semester and many more. These courses are enough to cover the remains ECTS I needed.

I believe the above achievements are sufficient to illustrate my learning ability. Although the Master's grades are somewhat lower than my Bachelor, there are some simple factors that I will elaborate in the next section.

### **Concerned issues**

You might consider that my current overall grades are not excellent and competitive with the entire LMU computer institute. Just similar to a typical international student, a Chinese who was both a non-native German English speaker, together with the challenge of moving to Munich, these makes up for the fact that my grades at LMU are not perfect. These are the reason why an English course in my first semester (big data) did not perform well, but other English courses were all above 2.3, five above 1.7 and three courses have 1.0.

Undoubtedly, German is the most critical problem throughout the entire program process, because the current computer science program requires proficiency language skill of German. I only met the proficiency skill in English, which is needed by HCI program. Nevertheless, this critical issue can be easily solved. In the past one year, while studying HCI, I also take my time to learn German with surpassed A1.1 level, and now stay in an A1.2 learning phase. I can understand some simple German conversations and read a small paragraph of German texts. A few of evidence appears on my transcript, consider the lectures taught in pure German ("Knowledge Discovering in Databases II" conducted English exam, but it held in German. In the meantime, "Design Workshop I" was held in entirely German, though I did not achieve the ideal results, I still passed both of them). Fortunately, LMU IFI is opening more and offering more courses in English, and I think German is not an essential problem at all for me with enough English proficiency.

In summary, My ultimate ideal is to become a qualified computer scientist since I was a primary school child. I am passionate regarding science and technologies. After a detailed analysis, with my face-to-face discussion with Prof. Butz and Dr. Letz, I hold my view, and I firmly believe that it is necessary to have two degrees in this field, and I have enough ability to complete them at LMU. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require more documents or wish to take an interview, thank you in advance for your reading and consideration, and I trust that you will accept my application.

Yours sincerely,

**Ou Changkun**