

# Motivation Letter for Graduation Scholarship

Hao Ting Chan, MA in Political Science

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Dear Members of the Scholarship Committee,

I am writing to express my strong interest in the DAAD graduation scholarship. As a student currently pursuing a Master's degree in Political Science at the University of Mannheim, I am eager to secure financial support to focus intensively on my thesis and successfully complete my studies by January 2025.

Foremost, my choice to study in University of Mannheim, was a deliberate decision driven by the university's unique combination of data science and political science. My experience thus far here has been enriching, both academically and culturally, and I am determined to make the most of this opportunity by completing my degree with excellence. My immediate academic goal is to secure a Research Associate position at GESIS - Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, where I currently work as a Student Assistant. This role has been instrumental in developing my skills in Data Analysis and the Machine Learning ecosystem. My long-term career goal is to contribute to the field of social data science, leveraging data analysis techniques to inform and improve public policy.

Financially, I have managed to support myself through my student job at GESIS. However, as I transition into the final phase of my studies, I intend to reduce my working hours to dedicate sufficient time to my Master's thesis. This reduction in income presents a substantial challenge, making this scholarship crucial for my financial stability and academic success. My thesis will focus on analyzing speeches from the United Nations Security Council. I aim to explore how large language models (LLMs) generate text based on given prompts and how altering these prompts impacts the generated text. By measuring the similarity or dissimilarity of LLM counterfactual outputs, I hope to contribute valuable insights to the field of computational linguistics and political communication.

Beyond my academic pursuits, I actively participate and organized extracurricular activities such as badminton and planning hiking trips. These activities have not only enhanced my management and leadership skills but also provided a balanced lifestyle, enabling me to manage stress and maintain focus on my academic goals. As I look towards the final phase of my studies, securing this scholarship becomes even more critical. I believe the scholarship will provide me with the financial stability needed to focus on my thesis and complete my studies without undue stress. I am committed to utilizing this support to achieve my academic and career goals and contribute meaningfully to the field of political data science.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to your positive response.

Yours Sincerely,



Hao Ting (Bryan) Chan