

Personal Statement
Master of Engineering - Artificial Intelligence
Applicant: Lin-Hsi Tsao

Back in junior high school, I was inspired to become an outstanding engineer after reading the biography of Steve Jobs. The story motivated me to keep myself abreast of technology trends and take the initiative to obtain hands-on experience related to society. During my undergraduate studies, I turned my expectations into action by participating in diverse courses and research projects. My journey began when I learned various advanced deep learning applications in the Machine Learning courses. For instance, researchers utilized “Transfer Learning” to change streetscapes into different styles. I was fascinated by the approach since it effectively improved the ability of autonomous vehicles to move in a variety of landscapes. After taking the classes, I explicitly arranged the content of the courses on GitHub for beginners because I believed the mission of a great engineer is to benefit the world. This experience has given me a strong sense of achievement whenever the users share their positive feedback about my contribution.

Having immersed in several research projects, I learned not only professional knowledge but also positive attitudes to face stress and frustration. For example, I worked as a research assistant for the industry-academia cooperation project on Fisheye Face Recognition in my senior year. At first, my unfamiliarity with identifying and resolving the core problems often resulted in harsh criticism from my supervisor. I was overwhelmed by stress and was afraid to take part in meetings. However, I soon realized that dodging problems would put me several steps behind my goals; therefore, I actively consulted the experience of senior peers and solicited guidance from the supervisor to address the issues that I encountered. Gradually, I turned the challenge into an opportunity for self-learning and advancement. Since then, I have pinpointed potential problems accurately and leveraged systematic and efficient approaches to tackling them. I was even recommended by my supervisor to deliver a speech about my research experience to undergraduates, which is an obvious recognition of my progress. This experience has fostered my forward-looking mindset and armed me with the ability to turn stumbling stones into building blocks whenever I came across obstacles.

My experience from the Creativity and Entrepreneurship Program further strengthened my determination to solve social issues. When communicating with teammates from different educational backgrounds, I realized that perspective differences happen anywhere since we live in a world of diversity. However, it is essential to listen carefully to opinions from all sides. By integrating AI technologies with virtual reality, people would have an opportunity to visit various places in the “Metaverse.” Therefore, they may sidestep quarrels from perspective differences and embrace diversity after realizing the unique stories behind different cultures, religions, and so forth. UCLA would bring me closer to my goals since it is a school that highlights solid AI training and international students, giving me fertile ground to gather diverse opinions. I am confident that my persevering and creative personality will allow me to contribute diversity to UCLA and begin a successful career in my field of interest.