

Personal History Statement

for Fall 2022 University of California, Berkeley M.Eng. in EECS

As Leonard Cohen, a legendary Canadian singer, once said, “Act the way you’d like to be and soon you’ll be the way you act.” Motivated by the quote, I have developed a personality that enjoys stepping out of my comfort zone and taking the initiative to obtain hands-on experience related to society, making me a person full of diversity.

My journey of taking challenges began in my junior year when I led the Light Dance team to deliver a performance in front of hundreds of audiences. Unlike other types of dance, the most unique feature of the light dance was that the dance clothes could sync with music and light effects based on programming and hardware designs. Therefore, leading the Light Dance team was more difficult because I had to integrate the opinions of the choreographers and the developers who designed the systems and clothes. During the process, I gained vital skills such as assigning tasks, allocating resources, and developing team cohesion. All of which further strengthened my problem-solving and decision-making abilities.

Despite my background in Electrical Engineering, I actively participated in a wide variety of marketing planning activities, where I cultivated the capability of collaborating with others from various professional backgrounds to solve social issues. For instance, when I was in the Creativity and Entrepreneurship Program, I worked with a team consisting of students from different educational backgrounds. By exchanging distinct ideas and embracing opinions from all sides, we decided to address the most urgent needs of our society. According to our observation, the COVID-19 pandemic was so prevalent that people could not join offline activities such as study groups to improve their knowledge. Therefore, my team proposed an online knowledge-based community platform for users to share opinions and useful information with others. Our endeavor paid off when the platform successfully attracted 3,000 users, and our proposal won 3rd Place in the Startup Cup Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition.

Moreover, the valuable experience I obtained during the Fisheye Face Recognition project enabled me to develop a positive attitude to face stress and frustration. When I first stepped into this field, my unfamiliarity with identifying and resolving the core problems has often resulted in harsh criticism from my supervisor. I was overwhelmed by stress and was afraid to take part in meetings. However, I soon re-

alized 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 the undergraduates, during which I encouraged them to foster a forward-looking mindset when performing research. This experience has armed me with the ability to turn stumbling stones into building blocks whenever I come across obstacles, and it strengthened my positive influence on others.

My academic experiences and extracurricular activities have shaped my unique identity. To further broaden my horizons and learn the latest technology to bring positive changes to the world, it is essential for me to pursue a graduate degree to develop extensive insights into advanced engineering techniques. I look forward to contributing my team spirit and Taiwanese culture to the UC Berkeley family.