Duke Upload File

**If you are applying to the Trinity College of Arts and Sciences as a first year applicant, please discuss why you consider Duke a good match for you. Is there something particular about Duke that attracts you? (Please limit your response to no more than 250 words.)**

I have created several programs, but its was through the development of a navigation app for the blind community and a health reimbursement platform for people with disabilities that I developed a passion for applying computer science to health for the benefit of society.

Duke’s Structural Biology & Biophysics Program offers an incredible opportunity to mix my two passions, CS and biochemistry. I also want to conduct independent research hosted by Duke Center for Genomic and Computational Biology. I have genetic acute scoliosis, and was interested in developing prediction algorithms for the condition so that the onset could be prevented.

I have grown a great deal from being on a specialized track and with a cohort in my highschool and I look forward to a tight-knit environment within which to form meaningful relationships with students in all areas of study. Another aspect I am looking forward to is the close relationships with faculty that Duke encourages. I have benefited enormously from the mentorship of my teachers in the past and hope to engage with professors at Duke in similar ways. For example, with Bruce Donald, who is researching algorithms for building and simulating proteins.

With everything I learn at Duke I want to become an entrepreneur working on socially-minded tech. Duke can provide me with the tools necessary to achieve this through its Innovation & Entrepreneurship program. I am encouraged in this by stories like that of Transcriptic, a Duke-born biological analysis company that raised funds after participating in Duke’s Startup Challenge.

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**(Optional) Duke University seeks a talented, engaged student body that embodies the wide range of human experience; we believe that the diversity of our students makes our community stronger. If you'd like to share a perspective you bring or experiences you've had to help us understand you better-perhaps related to a community you belong to or your family or cultural background-we encourage you to do so. Real people are reading your application, and we want to do our best to understand and appreciate the real people applying to Duke. (250 word limit)**

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There are two key contributions I want to make to Duke’s diverse student body.

The first is the perspective I have developed from growing up in Argentina. Our economy is very dependent on external factors, and cannot sustain itself. This has forced me to strive for cheaper, simpler and more practical solutions for the problems I want to solve such that everyone can benefit from them. I also attribute part of my creativity and persistence to the trials of implementing innovative solutions within extremely bureaucratic Argentine institutions.

Overall, I believe my experience growing up in Argentina has provided me with a unique perspective and problem solving approach.

The second factor is my experience with scoliosis, a condition that forced me to wear a plastic vest around my torso for many years. It was noticeable even under a shirt and made me feel different. I couldn’t play outside with my friends, and people who didn’t know me would steer away in public.

A year ago, I was able to take it off permanently due to my conscientious efforts at the gym. My experience with scoliosis made me realize how it feels to be different and misunderstood, and recognize the extreme importance of sensitivity to the feelings and circumstances of others.

I hope to bring both of these perspectives and experiences to Duke’s campus next year.

**(Optional) Duke's commitment to diversity and inclusion includes sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. If you would like to share with us more about how you identify as LGBTQIA+, and have not done so elsewhere in the application, we invite you to do so here.**

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