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**How did you discover your intellectual and academic interests, and how will you explore them at the University of Pennsylvania? Please respond considering the specific undergraduate school you have selected. (300-450 words)**

Two years ago, while preparing for the Informatics Olympiads, I came across an article on a text manipulation algorithm for analyzing the DNA sequences of individuals from different species. I was fascinated by the application of this method across disciplines and challenged myself to do the same with the algorithms I was learning. Since that day, I step back at every opportunity and ask myself how what I am studying connects to what I know about computer science and how potential connections may change my understanding of the problem.

In the past few years, I have created several programs. However, it 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 and for the benefit of society.

Penn’s research focus on data science presents an incredible opportunity to do this. I want to work alongside the likes of Lyle Ungar, whose new algorithms and techniques for measuring the mental and physical well-being I am very interested in. The department’s research on medical systems is also something I would like to witness first-hand because of its close work with patients in treatment.

Moreover, I am excited at the idea of working under faculty in the Warren Center for Network & Data Sciences. I believe the work being done there on the fairness of machine learning algorithms will play an important role as these algorithms are implemented more and more widely.

With everything I learn from these opportunities I want to start a company that generates a positive social impact. Penn can provide me with the tools necessary to achieve this through its Entrepreneurship and Innovation specialization.

Beyond the classes that are part of the program, I would also like to become involved in a startup and participate in the assortment of competitions, like STARTUP Challenge, and showcases at the Wharton school. I am very interested in the possibility of working full-time on my own project as part of the Summer Venture Award.

**At Penn, learning and growth happen outside of the classrooms, too. How will you explore the community at Penn? Consider how this community will help shape your perspective and identity, and how your identity and perspective will help shape this community. (150-200 words)**

In high school, I represented Argentina in the International Junior Science Olympiad and met peers from around the world. Prior to the competition, I was an introverted kid. However, the experience made me far more open and extroverted because I loved interacting with and learning from my fellow competitors. I grew a great deal from being in a small cohort at the Olympiad as well as on a specialized track in my highschool and look forward to participating in the Assembly of International Students, which I hope will be a tight-knit environment within which to form meaningful relationships with students in all areas of study and from all over the world. I hope to become an active participant in it and continue to learn from my peers.

Additionally, I have scoliosis, a condition that forced me to wear a plastic vest around my torso for years. It was very noticeable and made me feel different. I could not play with friends and strangers would steer away in public. This introduced me to the feeling of being different and made me recognize the importance of sensitivity to the feelings and circumstances of others, something that I hope to bring to campus.