

Personal Statement

As I feverishly look forward to attending your noble institution, I must declare that my personal stance on diversity and Duke's statement on the matter are in full alignment. In this statement, I'd like to express that and affirm my commitment to nurturing diversity and inclusion.

As a first-generation college student, I grew up with parents who never even considered the option of studying abroad. Nevertheless, as my interest in research grew, the urge to seek better opportunities and an environment that advocates diversity has driven and reinforced my resolution. While working as a research assistant in Canada, I closely interacted with faculty members and participated in academic conferences on our areas of interest. I enjoyed the relaxed and dynamic atmosphere, which allowed me to explore interdisciplinary areas, even unfamiliar ones, such as natural language processing, digital integrated circuit design, and wireless communication encryption algorithms. Working with a brilliant supervisor willing to discuss my future development, give insightful advice, and encourage me to express myself freely was a pleasure. For example, despite my research topic being anomaly detection on medical images, she expected our trained models would apply to industrial datasets with defects and distortions. In contrast to my undergraduate school, there were more opportunities to communicate with professors and to conduct research freely, rather than being restricted to a specific topic and losing a perspective of the whole picture.

Moreover, my supervisor told me that diversity is also essential in research. Our scientific study benefits more than simply the bulk of the population; it also helps minority groups. An open research system should guarantee that it fulfills the diverse demands of all societal groups. Following that, I began to pay attention to the people and things around me. People of various races were on the streets of Canada, and the voices surrounding me included Cantonese, Chinese, English, and French. The rainbow decorations that often appear on the streets represent a supportive attitude toward sexual minorities. Also, many public facilities are well-designed to accommodate people with disabilities, including elevator buttons, induction doors at train entrances, and ramps within the building. All of these designs show care and respect for particular groups in society.

By sharing my journey as an international student who has found his love for research in the field of Electrical and Computer Engineering, I am confident that my background will provide unique perspectives to your program and community of researchers. I maintain that inclusion and diversity are critical for academic and research success. Although the industry and academia of Electrical and Computer Engineering have long had a reputation for openness and inclusivity, the quest for equality is far from over. Therefore, in my future career as an educator, I will embrace pedagogical methods that encourage diversity in the classroom. I genuinely hope that my experiences will enrich Duke's community, and I intend to do everything I can to promote diversity in my profession.