

Personal Statement

Dear Admissions Committee:

I am a junior student at UESTC (University of Electronic Science and Technology of China) and I major in Software Engineering. I am applying for the exchange student program by UC Berkeley Extension at the University of California, Berkeley. I would like to further my study of software engineering in particular and other academic courses with the help of Berkeley Global Access.

I have great passion for my major. My GPA is 3.68/4.00. Rather than drilling theoretical knowledge alone, I prefer to apply the theory into practice by teamwork efforts. My Studio members and I had completed three software projects, during which we managed to learn both inside and outside the classroom. We have won a great many awards, the most memorable of which is the Third Prize of the National WeChat Application Program Development Competition. It was incredible to even imagine that our work would stand out from more than 300 teams. What's more, thanks to the Innovative Entrepreneurship Projects that I laid my sweat and wits on, I had been awarded with the Model Student of Innovation Scholarship in my sophomore year. Apart from academic study, I also take part in various extracurricular activities, like the Student Union and so on. Plus, I am so honored to be the host of many large events, such as lectures, celebrations, and evening gala. I will always treasure those experiences, which helps to foster me into a versatile person.

Except for the strong desire to fit in the atmosphere of Berkeley, I have had long conceived more than the idea of a better understanding of modern Western culture. The thrust of Software Engineering, my major, originates from the Western thinking pattern that might be friends to my American and European colleagues but strangers to me. Many advanced computer technologies and concepts have been proposed by American companies or universities, such as Google's TensorFlow framework for machine learning, Apache's Hadoop, and so on, all of which have had a huge impact in the industry. Above all, to better integrate the unchanged theory and changing environment, I shall develop a deeper understanding of both cultures and conduct the debug process to my thinking mode: expansion, promotion, innovation and revolution. To me, it is of vital importance for more the advanced study than the future career. Berkeley has the one of most privileged engineering colleges all around the world, with outstanding faculty and free academic atmosphere. If I am presented with the chance to study in Berkeley, I would be able to receive one of the best educations in the world and learn the knowledge of my major in-depth, which will lay a solid foundation for me to become an excellent engineer in the future. Last but not the least, I plan to apply for the graduate program in USA in the future so it is good for me to adapt to American studying and living environment in advance.

If I have a chance to study at Berkeley, I plan to register several regular courses and extension courses through Berkeley Global Access. I would like to choose one mathematics course and

several computer science courses. Knowing that some popular software engineering courses are not that easy to be enrolled in, I will learn the courses with prerequisites at my home university in advance. I have some relevant courses like the Foundation of Data structure, The Principle of Computer Organization, Operating system foundation. The prerequisite knowledge which these courses give me can help me explore some more advanced courses like Operating Systems and System Programming (COMPSCI 162 00) and Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (COMPSCI 188 001) in Berkeley. Additionally, some courses which I had already taken in my alma mater are in my course shopping cart either. Taking the Discrete Mathematics (MATH 55 001) as an example, I have learned it in my sophomore year but not so thoroughly in terms of the Graph Theory. Therefore, I would like to learn it again in Berkeley. I will also choose some regular courses in other fields like literature or language through BGA, which could broaden my horizon and help me have a better understanding of western culture. Moreover, I will choose the courses held by UC Berkeley Extension to expand my knowledge. As for extracurricular time, I will make sure that all my classwork will be finished on time and of high quality as I can, and then preview the next chapters and sections. Besides academic study, I will be thrilled to take a cruise around the school and the city. Located in the Bay area, Berkeley is only one hours' drive away from Silicon Valley, the birthplace of lots of giant tech companies. I am looking forward to visiting these enterprises and experiencing the dense atmosphere of innovation on the spot. And I believe this kind of experience will be of great help in leading me to the fittest track for the future career, which I would devote myself to for the rest of my life.

After the one-term study at Berkeley, I plan to come back to UESTC to finish my last undergraduate year. With the help of the brilliant colleagues and excellent professors in Berkeley, I believe that I can get much more prepared to the future graduate study. It will be the highlight of my life, and I am eager to create more highlights by contributing myself to the development of Computer Science in China.

I will really appreciate it if Berkeley could offer me this precious opportunity to improve my academic ability and broaden my international horizon.

Thank you for considering my application.