



Identity

Cultural Background

1. Please tell us more about your cultural background and identity in the space below. (150 words)

I was born in Malaysia and have lived here my whole life. Born of an American and a Malaysian, I appear to be fairly American. Attending an International School exposes me to a wide variety of cultures, instilling a fairly sporadic combination of international cultures in me. I enjoy getting to know people of different cultures and frequently get to through various mission trips both within and outside of Malaysia.

2. Please tell us if aspects of your identity have been a barrier to educational access and opportunity. (150 words)



Additional Information

Academic Interest

1. Tell us more about why this field of study at MIT appeals to you. (100 words)

 Para

Ever since I was a kid I have been drawn to computers and math.



Anything Else?

1. If there is anything we should know about your school's grading system or course offerings (including disruptions due to COVID-19), please use the space below. (250 words)

 Para

In my current High School, it was exceptionally difficult for me to take certain AP classes there exists a strict policy on prerequisites and how many free blocks you must take. For example, I was originally not allowed to take AP Biology as I never officially completed the course, although I did audit and pass the course the year prior. The class would not be considered as an official course as it fell during my mandatory free block. Another issue was that I was not allowed to submit my AP 3-D art portfolio after one year of the class. Normally, this AP would span two years (four semesters), but I had completed all the pieces after the second semester. The school would not allow me to submit my artwork without taking an additional two semesters of the course, which would have reduced my available time for other courses.

During COVID-19, Malaysia declared a state of emergency and restricted the movement of citizens, this prevented students like me from attending physical school for roughly one year. Online school was plagued by a multitude of issues, including using a non-standard schedule for classes and not being able to use laboratory equipment. AP testing during this time was online and conducted at the same time across the whole globe, meaning my AP tests were at 3 in the morning. Issues like this throughout the year were very disorienting and tiresome to deal with.

2. If you have any extenuating circumstances, or would like to provide additional information, please let us know. (250 words)



Test Scores

Test Scores

1. We understand that sometimes things outside of your control impact your ability to complete tests to the best of your ability. If you have an extenuating circumstance, such as exam cancellations or illness, please let us know here. (150 words)



CalTech

Academics

1. Have you had any extenuating circumstances regarding your coursework (such as limited course selection or disruptions) not described elsewhere in your

application? If so, tell us about them here. (150 words)

Para

In my current High School, it was exceptionally difficult for me to take certain AP classes there exists a strict policy on prerequisites and how many free blocks you must take. For example, I was originally not allowed to take AP Biology as I never officially completed the course, although I did audit and pass the course the year prior. The class would not be considered as an official course as it fell during my mandatory free block. Another issue was that I was not allowed to submit my AP 3-D art portfolio after one year of the class. Normally, this AP would span two years (four semesters), but I had completed all the pieces after the second semester. The school would not allow me to submit my artwork without taking an additional two semesters of the course, which would have reduced my available time for other courses.

2. Some Caltech applicants engage in STEM competitions locally, nationally, and internationally (such as AIME, Science Olympiad, International Science Olympiads). If you have received any STEM honors or awards, list them here (and scores, if applicable). (200 words)

Para

I have participated in the Kangaroo Math Competition ever since the third grade as I really enjoy math, and got silver the first time, and 6 gold medals each year after that.



3. Why did you choose that area of interest? (200 words)



Princeton

QB supplement

Academics

1. Please describe why you are interested in studying engineering at Princeton. Include any of your experiences in, or exposure to engineering, and how you think the programs offered at the University suit your particular interests. (250 words)



Writing Questions

1. Briefly elaborate on an activity, organisation, work experience, or hobby that has been particularly meaningful to you. (150 words)

≡ Para

I have been coding for a fairly long time, but only recently been interested in joining the Open Source community. Fairly recently, I my first open source project that I am truly proud of: obsidian-columns. Coding as a hobby and now trying to contribute to the Open Source community is meaningful to me as it not only gives me a new perspective on how to code and collaborate with others, but also how to manage and communicate with the end users. It has also allowed me to explore more specifics in the field of Computer Science to figure out which areas I'm more interested in.

2. At Princeton, we value diverse perspectives and the ability to have respectful dialogue about difficult issues. Share a time when you had a conversation with a person or a group of people about a difficult topic. What insight did you gain, and how would you incorporate that knowledge into your thinking in the future? (250 words)

≡ Para

I once was having a conversation with a few friends on how different people use computers differently. We covered topics such as privacy, accessibility, design vs. function, and productivity/efficiency. Although all of us were programmers on some level, we all viewed computers different even with respect to software development. Me, leaning more to the side of believing that privacy is important to respect, customisation and fine tuning are important for increasing productivity, and function should always come first before form disagreed often with a friend who believed that privacy should be given up for convenience, customisation is not important for the end-user, and that design is key to good function. This really opened my eyes to seeing how no matter how similar we were in what we were aiming to do, our methods of getting there and our mentalities along the way were vastly different. I learned that not everyone cares about optimising their workflow for themselves and that often designing something that has visual appeal and simplicity appeals to most people rather than a complicated more powerful alternative. I can apply this to anything I create, now that I understand that people have vastly different workflows for accomplishing similar tasks.

3. Princeton has a longstanding commitment to service and civic engagement. Tell us how your story intersects (or will intersect) with these ideals.* (250 words)

Para

Throughout my High School Career, I spend a lot of time volunteering in the community. In Boy Scouts, I participated in close to all the available service projects even if I had already completed my required hours. I contribute to my community multiple times a week outside of scouts: a weekly trash pickup for a couple hours, volunteering at my church, and even to the mainland to volunteer in refugee schools for teaching.

I would like to be able to serve more and with more people. I love to be able to serve people and Princeton's service culture will only enable me further in my service, not only through encouraging service itself, but by also providing a community centred around service. Reflexively, my love for service will contribute to the service community at Princeton as well.

4. What is a new skill you would like to learn in college? (50 words)

Para

Although I have been able to learn to collaborate in Open Source development recently, I would love to be able to learn how to function as part of a team especially in the context of software development as there is not much of a CS community where I'm from.

5. What brings you joy?* (50 words)

Para

Being able to serve and benefit other people brings me joy. For example, when I went on a mission trip to Perak to the natives to help teach them English and coding, it brought me joy because I felt like I made a difference and bettered other people.

6. What song represents the soundtrack of your life at this moment?* (50 words)

Para

100 Bad Days by AJR

The song talks about bad things in the past can be seen in a good light no matter what. Even though life is stressful for me at the moment, I know that no matter what I can look at it in a positive light.

Columbia University

Writing Supplement

1. List the titles of the books, essays, poetry, short stories or plays you read outside of academic courses that you enjoyed most during secondary/high school. (75 words)

Para

- Atomic Habits by James Clear
- Physically Based Rendering: From Theory to Implementation by Matt Pharr
- Ships, Splashes, and Waves on a Vast Ocean by L. Huang
- DreamBooth: Fine Tuning Text-to-Image Diffusion Models for Subject-Driven Generation by Nataniel Ruiz

2. We're interested in learning about some of the ways that you explore your interests. List some resources and outlets that you enjoy, including but not limited to websites, publications, journals, podcasts, social media accounts, lectures, museums, movies, music, or other content with which you regularly engage. (125 words)

Para

For my interest in computer science, I enjoy looking through GitHub and reading some code. I often end up in the documentation of obscure unique projects trying to understand their innovative solutions to complex problems so that I could apply it to my code some day. I will often watch some tech related news and see whats going on in the industry.

For my interest in art, I gain inspiration through visiting galleries and talking to artists. Through talking to people I don't normally interact with, I get to see how people view art differently and see how differences in inspiration lead to unique processes on creating art.

3. A hallmark of the Columbia experience is being able to learn and thrive in an equitable and inclusive community with a wide range of perspectives. Tell us about an aspect of your own perspective, viewpoint or lived experience that is important to you, and describe how it has shaped the way you would learn from and contribute to Columbia's diverse and collaborative community. (200 words)



4. Why are you interested in attending Columbia University? We encourage you to consider the aspect(s) that you find unique and compelling about Columbia. (200 words)



5. Please tell us what from your current and past experiences (either academic or personal) attracts you specifically to the areas of study that you previously noted in the Academic Information section. (200 words)



6. In Columbia's admissions process, we value who you are as a unique individual, distinct from your goals and achievements. In the last words of this writing supplement, we would like you to reflect on a source of happiness. Help us get to know you further by describing the first thing that comes to mind when you consider what simply brings you joy. (35 words)



Duke University

QB Supplement

1. What is your sense of Duke as a university and a community, and why do you consider it a good match for you? If there's something in particular about our offerings that attracts you, feel free to share that as well. (250 words)



Yale University

QB Supplement

1. Tell us about a topic or idea that excites you and is related to one or more academic areas you selected above. Why are you drawn to it? (200 words)

Para

Seeing any kind of software infrastructure integration really interests me. Ever since I started learning about CI/CD I was blown away by the possibilities and how easy it was to streamline the entire code pipeline. Recently I learned about Nix, a functional programming language and package manager, which allows you to more easily compile bit-perfect reproducible results. Synergetically, it allows you to guarantee that your CI/CD pipeline will behave deterministically without having to develop in the same environment.

As I was first exploring Nix and its functional, declarative nature, I was deeply intrigued by having things perfectly reproducible and repeatable, down to the level of an entire operating system (NixOS). Even with its frustrations, the idea of having your code compile deterministically and "perfectly" every time is deeply satisfying. I am drawn to reproducible environments as it allows people to spend more time actually developing rather than trying to understand why my code doesn't work for you when it runs perfect for me. All this goes to say that software infrastructure interests me; all the dependencies, build system, and CI/CD complexly collaborating together to produce a meaningful and unique result still manages to blow my mind.

2. What is it about Yale that has led you to apply? (125 words)



Rice University

QB Supplement

1. Please explain why you wish to study in the academic areas you selected above. (150 words)



2. Based upon your exploration of Rice University, what elements of the Rice experience appeal to you? (150 words)



3. Rice is lauded for creating a collaborative atmosphere that enhances the quality of life for all members of our campus community. The Residential College System and undergraduate life are heavily influenced by the unique life experiences and cultural tradition each student brings. What life perspectives would you contribute to the Rice community? (500 words)



Brown University

QB Supplement

1. Brown's Open Curriculum allows students to explore broadly while also diving deeply into their academic pursuits. Tell us about any academic interests that excite you, and how you might use the Open Curriculum to pursue them while also embracing topics with which you are unfamiliar. (250 words)



2. Brown's culture fosters a community in which students challenge the ideas of others and have their ideas challenged in return, promoting a deeper and clearer understanding of the complex issues confronting society. This active engagement in dialogue is as present outside the classroom as it is in academic spaces. Tell us about a time you were challenged by a perspective that differed from your own. How did you respond? (250 words)



3. Brown students care deeply about their work and the world around them. Students find contentment, satisfaction, and meaning in daily interactions and major discoveries. Whether big or small, mundane or spectacular, tell us about something that brings you joy. (250 words)



University of Penn

QB Supplement

1. Write a short thank-you note to someone you have not yet thanked and would like to acknowledge. (We encourage you to share this note with that person, if possible, and reflect on the experience!) (200 words)

Para

Four years ago, I was at a New Year's party with no one I knew as I had followed my parents and sister to their friend's house. It got boring really quick and I wanted to go home as soon as possible because I had no one to talk to, but later a group of older kids invited me over to talk with me and play Foosball.

Thank you so much for simply talking to me. Even if it may seem like nothing in the moment, you lightened up my day and turned what was to me a boring party into one that I didn't want to leave. Although it has been four years now and I still don't know your names or how to contact you, that simple interaction has stuck with me since then. You taught me how to look out for other people even it isn't the most convenient. I now understand that a little effort into trying to lighten someone else's day has an

exponential output on that person's life. Thank you for not only making my day, but for teaching me a valuable lesson on how to care.

2. How will you explore community at Penn? Consider how Penn will help shape your perspective and identity, and how your identity and perspective will help shape Penn. (200 words)



3. Considering the specific undergraduate school you have selected, describe how you intend to explore your academic and intellectual interests at the University of Pennsylvania. (200 words)



Northwestern

QB Supplement

1. Help us understand how you might engage specific resources, opportunities, and/or communities here. We are curious about what these specifics are, as well as how they may enrich your time at Northwestern and beyond. (300 words)



Washington U

QB Supplement

1. Please tell us what you are interested in studying at college and why. (200 words)



2. Tell us how you would use this combined degree to explore the intersection of these two disciplines? (Joint program in Business and Computer Science)

