

As a Chinese citizen, my interest in studying in Hong Kong after an undergraduate degree in the United States stems from a sustained interest in developing a global worldview. A Master of Arts in International Studies from City University of Hong Kong allows me to broaden my learning perspective where training and knowledge from the West comes full circle in the East. I wish to study this program because I want to improve my analytical and research skills. In addition, I look forward to opportunities where I will be asked to present my own findings in a professional setting that requires high-level communication. As the only program of its kind in Hong Kong, this Master's program offers me the opportunity to study Asian political and economic structures in Asia instead of the United Kingdom or United States, far away from an intimate knowledge of events. As I pursue a career in international affairs, few other programs offer such a specific focus on my career interests.

As long as I remember, courage in the midst of uncertainty has defined my life. It must do so when someone travels as much as I have. After visiting over thirty countries, mostly on my own, I have learned that value of living in the moment as I have taken on different cultures and languages head on. This fascination for languages and foreign experiences has driven me to learn French, Korean, English, and Italian, in addition to my native Chinese. That initially contributed to my initial interest in studying history, culture, international affairs, and foreign relations. This culminated in my international studies undergraduate degree, which adds a degree of competence in economics principles for future opportunities.

In addition to my interest in languages, I possess a background where I have demonstrated the ability to lead others towards common goals. In 2012, I had the privilege of acting as group leader for a language-teaching program. My colleagues placed me in positions of growth where I was expected to organize meetings between Chinese and Korean language learners. In addition, I was expected to prepare language study materials for the students. By developing a curriculum for these learners, I actively engaged students with few initial commonalities as they worked to learn from each other. Learning to act as a leader and build others up begins with consistent opportunities to grow. By attending City University, I look forward to more clearly understanding the challenges facing international leaders in areas of government and corporate affairs as they lead others in their own right.

In spite of my demonstrated qualifications for entering the City University program, I recognize that my GPA could cause some to underestimate my academic abilities. When I began my studies at the University of Iowa, I will admit that I did not realize how important the GPA was for academic achievement. In spite of my average grades, I continued to advance through my degree program as I engaged with my professors and student colleagues. I often found myself placing attention on studying foreign languages, and found this obsession to guide me in my quest to learn new concepts. Today, I feel confident in my ability to apply this passion for learning at the next level as I have demonstrated a solid competence in core international studies courses such as Contemporary Politics (B) and Political Economy of International Development (B-). My GPA has not limited me from obtaining financial support from multiple organizations. I have benefitted from \$1000s of dollars in scholarships including the ABRD ACT Scholarship, the ABRD R&MJ Stanley Scholarship, and the UI National Scholars Award. As I have succeeded in these small yet tangible ways, I feel confident with support from my professors and former university that I can continue my studies at the next level.

In the City College MA in International Studies program, I expect to be challenged and recognize that my previous understandings may require adjustment to fit a new system. I expect people to look to me to prove myself and earn their respect. I expect professors to make high demands of me. I do these things because I wish to have my own business in international trade in a place like Shenzhen or Hong Kong. I wish to study this program so that I can build contacts with other people in the area and begin to transition from student life to a professional career in the region of the world that I wish to settle in. As I continue to work hard and engage with others, I expect great results.