

When I was a high school student, I longed to speak English fluently. Achieving competence in English while living in Japan, however, was difficult. Therefore, after my graduation from high school, I decided to travel to the United States. At the time, my only specific objective was to master conversational English; I had not yet defined my academic goals.

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After spending several years in the United States, I had become well-versed in American culture, and I was able to speak enough English to "get by." When I returned to Japan, I sought a position with an American-affiliated company, and I was hired by AT&T in Tokyo. It had not been my explicit intention to work in the IT field; however, every job opportunity that would allow me to speak English, involved this sort of work. Since I sought to continue developing my linguistic and professional skills, I thought that an IT career would not be a bad idea, at least for the short term.

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I currently work as a system administrator. I manage more than 80 Windows-based servers, including SQL, MS-Exchange, and SMS. This year, my major project has involved Active Directory Migration. I recently organized a team to implement a Windows 2003 Active Directory environment for more than 1,000 users.

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Although I applied myself fully to my job, I used to harbor the belief that my work in the IT profession was temporary. After remaining in the field for 3 years, I realized that I should take my profession more seriously. I wished to become more knowledgeable about my work; I wanted to become genuinely talented at what I did for a living. With these goals in mind, I began to challenge myself in earnest. I felt that my efforts had been recognized when I was given an Employee of the Year award by my current company.

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Although I was pleased to have my diligence acknowledged, I did not allow myself to become complacent. As technologies improve each day, there is no end to the study of IT. As I began taking MCP courses, I steadily grew more interested in IT-related subjects. I even started to work toward an undergraduate IT degree. However, I found that in the undergraduate program, my courses covered a great deal of material with which I was already familiar. As I am currently employed as a system engineer, I perform troubleshooting, system implementation, and project management on a daily basis. Despite the solid foundation I have developed in the field, I am not satisfied with my IT knowledge, and I would like to learn more.

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Studying IT part-time while working in the field certainly affords some professional advantages. However, it has been difficult to explore a specialization in IT while striving for 'A's and working a full-time job. Therefore, I would like to become a full-time student in my area of interest. I strongly believe that the KTH graduate program will help me develop the skills to become a more talented project manager and a better administrator. I am confident that I am prepared to achieve success at KTH. Ultimately, I would like to work for a company that employs a culturally diverse group of people. My goal is to become an IT specialist in a global organization. A KTH graduate degree would be instrumental in helping me to achieve such a position.

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When I visited Sweden last year, I was captivated by the international and cosmopolitan character of Stockholm. I am eager to continue my exploration of the world by immersing myself in Swedish culture. If am accepted by KTH, I will especially enjoy the opportunity to experience everyday life in Stockholm.

Thank you for your consideration.

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