These experiences at a young age allowed me to become acutely aware of the personal growth that occurs with travel. Living in China, I learned the importance of respect for the elderly, the custom of handing out red envelopes on Chinese New Year, and the culture and joy of square dancing. When I moved back to America, I learned about diversity, the power of free speech, and the culture of small talk. All this knowledge informs my values today, playing a vital role in shaping me into the person I am. With opportunities for studying abroad in college, I am eager to seek unique experiences and explore new cultures that will influence my development as a student and an individual.

While I am excited to make discoveries about myself and the world, traveling has always been a luxury for my immigrant family. Therefore, scholarships would immensely support the exploration of my passions, and I am grateful for the opportunity to apply to Dr. Ruth Covell's International Study Scholarship. With the support of this scholarship, I hope to participate in an Education Abroad Program where I can broaden my knowledge in cognitive science, specifically machine learning. As cognitive science is a field that draws from multiple disciplines, including psychology, linguistics, philosophy, and more, I wish to gain theoretical perspectives from people of different backgrounds that offer new insight into these areas of thinking. I also intend to build my professional network abroad by making connections and learning from leading researchers and professionals in the field. Furthermore, with machine learning being a rapidly evolving field, innovations are constantly emerging; studying abroad would allow me to gain exposure to these techniques and approaches that may be less prominent in the US.

Apart from developing my academic career abroad, I hope to explore and immerse myself in new cultures to appreciate the diversity of the human experience as I discover the customs, beliefs, and values of people from different parts of the world. I believe this exposure to new environments would help me gain a more nuanced understanding of the world and broaden my perspectives. Upon return, I am excited to be a reflection of all the knowledge I gained, all the values I adopted, and all the challenges I overcame. Given my eagerness and determination, I am confident that a study abroad experience would be an invaluable journey of personal growth and academic development, and I would be beyond thankful for the opportunity.