

Each and every one of us dreams of finding what would give sense and meaning to our lives. Growing up, I have always been aware that the world is a huge place to live in and I believe that I have found the purpose of my life by being actively concern with the lives of other people, both in local and global affairs. Because of globalisation and modern developments, I have seen the increase in the demand for knowledge of international studies. I believe that this is also something that countries should recognize today for the world is really just one big place where everyone is interconnected. Gone are the days when countries are supposed to be alienated from each other. Since I come from an average, middle-class family, I consider myself very blessed with the opportunity to have a good education that has enlightened me of the things I am still capable of becoming and imparting to it. In fact, I come from a simple family. My father is an Associate Professor at the Wuhan University and my mother is an Accountant in the Logistics Group of the university. But both of them had been very supportive and I have learned that if you are determined to become educated, then nothing should stop you from pursuing your studies. By now, after fifteen years of good education in China, I know that I am very much ready to embark on the greater and more rewarding challenge of studying in a more civilized and developed nation like the United Kingdom where there is better education related to international affairs that I want to pursue for it would equip me to have the right kind of knowledge to become a better individual for my country and for the world.

I am not a person who can promise that I will guarantee world peace or elevate the poverty of my country if I ever get the chance to learn from the best. Honestly, I am just a person who wants to try. In college, I took up Public Administration in the School of Political Science and Public Administration at the Wuhan University and it had been a rewarding path for me because I became more aware of the needs on how to manage social and political policies of

governments and different countries. My centres of interests have always mostly revolved around activities that require me to be involved with community works that have also nurtured my leadership skills and how to be a responsible person. Aside from soccer and playing the accordion, I have been very active in my extra-curricular activities. I have handled becoming a class monitor in the first year in college and on my second year, I became the General Secretary of Student Union in school. Both occurrences led me to obtain good training on how to be a leader and also made it easy for me to get along with people and learn from the experiences of others. I believe that gaining holistic knowledge is valuable and it could only be acquired through willingly taking part in the lives of the people you encounter. This belief also served as my motivation me to help our group the best student organisation on campus. More than being just an ordinary leader, I personally tried to be a teacher and a motivator to our group in order to encourage the best that we all have. Acquiring these leadership skills gave me confidence that if I discipline myself and really set my heart into it, I can do a lot to help my country. Though it may not be world peace, I am hoping that whatever I can contribute to my countrymen will still be something as relevant as it too.

I also consider myself lucky to be given the chance of being exposed to people who come from different cultures and races. When I was eight years old, my father lived in Gabon, Africa and worked as a volunteer teacher. Visiting him there revealed my talent in languages. After living in Gabon for half a year, I was able to speak French with locals. This increased my interest in other cultures and using my discovered skill, I decided to participate in work with international affairs. Aside from my native language and French, I have also aimed to improve my English and learn Korean. Being linguistic nourishes my interest in different cultures and help me communicate well with people from other races. At one point in my life, I also

experienced of volunteering as a tour guide to foreign visitors in our country. As I share to them what I know about my homeland, I also gain a lot significant lessons about different cultures. This experience inspired me also to become more involved with global affairs. Through my visit in Gabon and my stint as a tour guide, I have learned that I have the ability to adapt and build good relationships with people from different cultures and races. This is a trait that I am truly proud of and I am aware that my course to finding the purpose of my life is also going towards the direction of international studies.

Awareness of other cultures does not mean that I have shut myself from appreciating and caring for my motherland. In fact, my determination to learn more about the world is also rooted from my consciousness of the needs of my country. My family lived in the rural areas so understanding the living conditions there had enlightened me to all kinds of life and made me aware of my country's real social and political problems. Also, I have conducted and participated in several researches that concerns some of the most important issues *Unattended Children's Education Concerns, New Look into Medical Security in Rural Parts of China, Changes in the Education system of China over the past 30 years* and *How to Support University Students Innovative Undertaking*. Some of these works have been recognized and honoured by my university. For me, what makes these surveys I have done are not the awards they have won but the knowledge they have imparted on me and the people who will benefit from them. Being aware of the results of the researches nurtured in me the urge to be responsive and understanding of concerns about the welfare and needs of my people and my country. These works, despite whatever difficulty I had to complete them, also nurtured in me the enthusiasm to learn more because through this we gain fulfilment and meaningful lives.

Over the years, I have also observed that China is experiencing a blind spot in fields relevant to international communication which has caused harm to its relationships with other nations. Lack of knowledge in international affairs has not only deteriorated the country's international image but has also provided a weakness on the country's public services. From experience during my undergraduate years and from my NGO internships, I have learned that the focus should be on diplomacy and improving global affairs. I got my first internship in 2008 in Mass Mutual Asia Ltd where I got certificated for Business Elite Exchange Program in Hong Kong University & won Global Leader Scholarship Prize. The experience on this internship taught me that enterprises play a significant part in social services. In the following summer I worked as an intern in Youth Palace, an NGO in China which aims to help children in health issues and education. My experience here made me realize that coordination among governments, third sectors, and enterprises support the development of one country and the whole world. Exposure to these realities made me want to gain more knowledge in the field of international affairs because I know I am capable of contributing more to my country and to the world.

My objective now is to be accepted for an MSc in Politics and Government in the European Union and MSc International Development and Humanitarian Emergencies at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). I know that the chance to study in United Kingdom would give me the chance to pursue a career in NGOs that would not only fulfil my personal aspirations but also benefit my motherland. I am very sure that an education at the LSE, an institution with a highly regarded academic reputation, would equip me with the best knowledge on international affairs. My choices of programmes are motivated by my fortitude

and determination of reforming the current situation of my country. I am well-aware that these programmes are both the most efficient choices that could best help me in my goals.

To be successful in every adventure we plan to push through, we should have a plan and a purpose. And I see the meaning of my life in pursuing international studies and understanding global relations in the hope that through these lessons I can also give back to my country the help that it needs. At this moment, my faith in contributing to development my country and my determination to live a productive life are my greatest encouragements in the challenge of the complicated world. But I know I can still do so much more.

My educational background, my past participation to several productive off-campus activities, and the experience I gained having been exposed to different cultures and international affairs have honed me to take a particular interest in the bigger picture of the world and not just what I see around me. I feel that international relations would not end up just as a personal interest but also lead me the path to finding the bigger meaning of my life. I am confident now and I believe that I am prepared to pursue a Masters programme from LSE because this is just what I need to gain the education I seek in international studies.