

## **Personal Statement**

### **Psychology Major - International Student (Japan)**

#### **Education and Career Goals\***

Write a brief statement outlining your education and career goals; if undecided, state what you hope to gain from the college experience.

My major is Psychology that I had desired to pursue this study since I was a junior high school student in Japan. In my junior-high senior grade, I realized I was interested in the human mind when I read a book about Freud Sigmund in the school library which explained his theory quite simply using a Japanese comic-book manga style. Now, my plan is to finish MiraCosta College in 2 years, and transfer to University California San Diego because the university has excellent classes especially about the human brain. Also, I would like to go to a graduate school; either San Diego State University or California State University Fullerton, to get a master's degree because they have a great counseling program in psychology section. For my career, I want to support people with a psychological approach. I've thought about working as a counselor, but I am still looking for more possibilities to accomplish my career goals.

#### **Extracurricular Activities\***

List activities you are involved with both on and off campus; for example, clubs, organizations, volunteer service, and sports activities. If applicable, describe your employment experience and how many hours you work per week. Do your activities relate to your education or career objective?

In the Fall 2014 semester, I was involved in the Japanese Club every Monday in MiraCosta College even though I could not officially join this semester because of my class schedule. Since it was my first semester, I joined the club to get used to the college taking advantage of my Japanese nationality. The activities helped students to grasp Japanese culture though playing traditional board/table games, watching classic movies, and more. Through these activities, I realized one could sufficiently understand and enjoy other cultures with small aid. For example, when we played "Shogi," which is the Japanese version of chess, we used special pieces instead of the original ones that are printed Chinese letters on to show how each piece moves. Since arrows are printed on special pieces instead of Chinese letters, students understood the game's rule easily and enjoyed. I learned one of the ways of cross-cultural understanding though these activities. From next semester, I am thinking about getting a job to earn money even though it will be limited because of my F1 visa.

#### **Other Information about yourself\***

Please provide information you would like to share about yourself including accomplishments you are proud of, hardships or challenges you overcame in your life, scholarships and/or honors you received. Most important, state your financial need and how a scholarship will help you achieve your education goal.

On March 11, 2011, when I was ninth grade, there was a magnitude 9.0 earthquake, which caused a devastating tsunami and fire in my city subsequently. Fortunately, my family and I succeeded in escaping from the wave. However, I saw from the hill where we escaped to that many houses and neighborhoods were flooded and then burned by a huge because fishery oil was mixed in the water. I lost many things and some of my friends in a flash and it became the most horrible experience in my memory. Even though it happened four years ago, my parents still live in a temporary house, which is weak and really small, and they definitely need a normal house or apartment to live in someday; even if it takes a huge cost. In fact, this experience gave me an opportunity to think about lives and human relationships. Moreover, I began to think I wanted to be mature and strong enough to support people suffering for something because I wanted somebody to support me mentally when I was in the hard time. I know the pain of them. That is the reason why I left Japan. Now, I am studying hard to go to UCSD and a graduate school because I am really curious about human structure. As well, I want to push myself to the limits to grow up. However, for international students, tuitions are much more expensive than for citizens. Since I cannot work enough because of my visa, and my family needs to get their living place, I really need to the help of this scholarship to pursue my education and my hope. Thank you for your consideration.