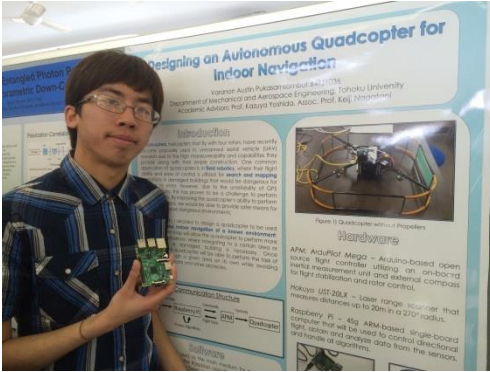


Student Statement of Purpose and Program Impact

UCEAP Memorial Scholarship Fund in memory of Peter Wollitzer
Varanon Austin Pukasamsombut, Japan 2014-15, UCSD



Varanon is studying in Japan at Tohoku University, one of the most prestigious engineering universities in the world. Tohoku University is renowned for its focus on scientific and engineering research.

Statement of Purpose from Scholarship Application

“My ambition is to become an inventor; an engineer who designs and creates new devices to benefit society and to advance our current technology, bringing us closer to a greater future that we once only imagined. Starting in the fall of 2014, I will be studying abroad for one year. My program provides us with an assigned lab where we work individually to conduct cutting-edge research under the guidance of a professional. As an electrical engineer who

dreams of becoming an inventor, I hope to learn from Japan’s ingenious designs and to one day be able to create my own innovative inventions to benefit my country.

With my current Japanese studies at UCSD, the intensive language program I will take during the summer at Tokyo, and the practice I will get while abroad, I plan to become fluent in Japanese. Studying in Japan will open the doors of possibilities needed for me to thrive in my path as an engineer and to develop my career, as well as let me live in a country I love.

I decided to go abroad for an entire year to completely immerse myself in the country and to take full advantage of my research program in Japan. Studying for a year will also allow me to make proper relationships with the researchers of my designated lab at the university.

With the skills I obtain at Tohoku University, along with the experiences from my projects and classwork, I will become one step closer to achieving my dream of becoming an inventor; and I hope to one day use my newfound capabilities to advance our society through technology as one of the world’s leading engineers.”

Statement of Program Impact

“Japan is a beautiful place and I love exploring all of the traditional and modern aspects that it offers. In both my summer program at Senshu University and my current program here at Tohoku University, I have also made many new friends from all around the world, truly giving me the global experience.

The Individual Research Training program provided here at Tohoku University is very well done and has allowed me to learn many hands-on skills. As my passion lies in robotics, I focused my research on UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) where I was able to develop my own quadcopter (a helicopter with four rotors). The goal of my research is to develop a quadcopter that can be used for autonomous indoor navigation, which will allow it to explore and collect data from damaged or radioactive buildings where it would be dangerous for humans to enter.

I am very excited to be creating something with my own hands that can be used for real-world application. In my lab, I am also able to communicate with my Japanese lab members and learn from them as well. This program abroad has been an amazing experience. I am very thankful for your help in funding this wonderful opportunity to explore Japan and develop my engineering skills. I will be sure to use this experience wisely in my future career and to teach others at my school the value of studying abroad!” - Varanon Austin Pukasamsombut