

**Personal Statement**  
**Achievement Fund Request: University of Cambridge International Summer Program**

Twenty-six. Twenty-four. And twenty-four. I'm not sure how common it is to track your reading habits over three (going on four!) consecutive years, but that's what I have been doing since 2014. Twenty-six, twenty-four, and twenty-four are how many books I read in 2014, 2015, and 2016 respectively. Another fun fact? I also track when I read these books and how long each one takes me. *Go Set a Watchman*? One day. *Macbeth*? One week. My latest reread of *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*? Nearly four months, although to be fair I did read ten other books during that period. I don't do this because I must, as if it were for some bizarre long-term assignment; I do it because it is fun to me. In case it was unclear, I love to read. I love it so much that not only could I ramble for hours about *books* I've read, but I could also do a fair amount of rambling just about my *reading patterns* (ex: spring and summer are my best reading seasons!). I've been hooked ever since I was five years old and first picked up *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, although my older brother had to help me get through that one at the time. Back when we still shared a bedroom, we would both sit in bed and read before going to sleep. Anytime there was a word I couldn't read, I would untuck myself and scramble out of bed, walk over to his side of the room book in hand, and then point to the word I didn't know. He would read it to me, I would walk back over to my bed, crawl back in and re-tuck myself before continuing to read until I found the next word that stumped me. It was slow going and I think it would be a safe bet to guess that I didn't read twenty-four books that year.

It may surprise people to hear then that I am an undeclared major. Yes, for all that I love literature and reading, I am still undecided on my future. This isn't because I don't like any subject, but because I like too many subjects. In high school, I took four AP classes my senior year (Physics 2, English, European History, and Calculus) because, aside from being a glutton for punishment, I enjoyed all those classes and was good at them too. During my first semester at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, I have been trying to narrow my focus and decide what I would like to do after I graduate. I am interested in International Studies, and Dr. Williamson is encouraging me to consider this as a path for a major or minor.

Honestly, I don't know what I'm going to do after I graduate. International Studies has attracted me for multiple reasons: my desire to travel, my interest in different cultures and

languages, and a pull towards public service and humanitarian work. I had first started considering International Studies after reading an article over the summer about how of all the illiterate people in the world, two-thirds are women. In fact, illiteracy is still a big problem in some parts of the world. The issue resonated with me because of how much I love to learn and love to read. It is hard for me to imagine a life where those rights are denied. The efforts of those to help girls gain better access to education are important and meaningful to me and got me thinking about what impact I could have in the issues I care about.

Will I someday be one of these people working to improve access to education for women? I don't know. It's a little early to make that call. What I do know is that books can take you anywhere, and I wouldn't want anyone to be denied that freedom. Books can take you to imaginary places, yes, but also to very real places of self-improvement and empowerment. They lead to higher education and employment. When I was younger, they used to take me from my side of the bedroom to my brother's side for help reading. Then books took me through school and to college. And now? They're taking me to England to study literature at the University of Cambridge.

## **Proposal**

### **Achievement Fund Request: University of Cambridge International Summer Program**

Each summer, the University of Cambridge (founded in 1209) hosts a selection of international courses for students and adults of all ages. These courses are taught by either Cambridge professors or guest specialists, and small class sizes for each course allow for close discussions rooted in the text amongst pupils. Along with participating in an exciting learning experience, attendees of the program can live in some of the oldest and most beautiful colleges in Cambridge. Of the programs offered, I have elected to enroll in the Literature program. The program will last for one month, from the 9<sup>th</sup> of July to the 5<sup>th</sup> of August. Each week, I will attend a morning and an afternoon class, bringing the total to eight courses for the duration of the program. There is also a lecture series which takes place during the mid-morning in addition to evening discussions. My eight courses for the month are as follows:

- A Journey through James Joyce's Ulysses (Week 1, 9:15am – 10:45am)
- An Introduction to the Bloomsbury Group (Week 1, 2:00pm – 3:30pm)
- Three Great British Fantasts: Lewis Carroll, Mervyn Peake, J. R. R. Tolkien (Week 2)
- Variations on the Tragic in Modern Drama (Week 2)
- Hardy's Wessex in an Age of Transition: Far from the Madding Crowd and Tess of the d'Urbervilles (Week 3)
- From Pan to Potter: 20<sup>th</sup>-century British Children's Literature (Week 3)
- Jane Austen: Emma and Persuasion (Week 4)
- Shakespearean Justice: The Merchant of Venice and Measure for Measure (Week 4)

Currently I am an undeclared major, however, I am interested in majoring in International Studies, with perhaps a double major or minor in English. With that in mind, I think that this experience is the perfect fit for me. Prior to starting college this past fall, I was already keen on the idea of studying abroad at some point during my time at university, and I was hopeful that I would be able to begin this type of experiential learning early in my college career. I investigated different study abroad opportunities and programs, but this is the one which combined educational content with location. I have been hoping to go to England for many years now, and as this will be my first time going abroad, I feel this experience will expand my horizons and make me more confident in how I interact with the world and those around me. When I came

across this Literature program at Cambridge, I saw that it combined my desire to travel abroad, which I feel is crucial for a prospective International Studies major, and my interest in English. I am extremely excited to be blending these interests together in this way this summer at an institute of learning with an old and rich history of knowledge and discovery.

I have not applied for other sources of funding. This program, run through the University of Cambridge, does not offer scholarships the way I understand that programs such as CEA and SAI do. The most important reason that I am requesting funding for this trip is that not all of my expenses can be covered with my 529 account which I use to pay for college, nor do I want to exhaust my 529 account as I still have multiple years of schooling in my future. I had hoped to work this past winter at the place where I had held a summer job to save money, but they were unable to give me hours.

## Costs/Fees

### Achievement Fund Request: University of Cambridge International Summer Program

	Cost (\$)
<b>Tuition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ GBP 1250/2 weeks</li> <li>▪ Total: GBP 2500</li> </ul>	3115*
<b>Accommodations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Includes: Single room in Gonville and Caius College along with breakfast and dinner each day</li> <li>▪ GBP 865/2 weeks</li> <li>▪ Extra Night Accommodation Fee to connect weeks 2 &amp; 3: GBP 67</li> <li>▪ Total: GBP 1797</li> </ul>	2240*
<b>Airfare</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Estimate based on Kayak.com, Google Flights, Priceline.com, and Expedia</li> </ul>	750
<b>Transportation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Train connecting London and Cambridge (round-trip): estimated GBP 34<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>	43*
<b>Food Expenses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ While breakfast and dinner are covered in my accommodation fee, lunch is not</li> <li>▪ Estimated GBP 15/day for 28 days based on the numbeo.com cost of living information</li> </ul>	560*
<b>Examinations (Essay)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This will allow me to transfer credits to IUP. According to the University of Cambridge Student Handbook, “a student who completes a two-week Summer Programme ... and who writes one 2,000 – 3,000-word essay be awarded three undergraduate semester credit hours.”<sup>2</sup> IUP has not yet clarified for me how many examinations I would need to complete; however, I believe from this text that 2 total (1 per two-week program) would be sufficient.</li> <li>▪ Examination fee: GBP 50 X 2</li> </ul>	125*
<b>Study Abroad Fee</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Owed to the IUP Education Abroad Office</li> </ul>	375
<b>Personal Expenses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Excursions, unforeseen costs, souvenirs, necessities</li> </ul>	400

<sup>1</sup> Based on [www.thetrainline.com](http://www.thetrainline.com) connecting Cambridge Station and London Kings Cross

<sup>2</sup> University of Cambridge Student Handbook Page 37

<b>Travel Insurance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Estimated value</li> </ul>	400
<b>Total</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Amount asked of CHC Achievement Fund: 5000</li> <li>▪ Amount put forth by me and my family: 3008</li> </ul>	8008

\* Conversion values are based on the current exchange rate (1 British Pound = 1.25 US Dollars) found on Google and can be subject to change

**Status of Arrangements**  
**Achievement Fund Request: University of Cambridge International Summer Program**

I have applied for and been accepted into the program at the University of Cambridge. I have paid a registration fee of GBP 400 (\$526) already, and the rest of the payment is due by May 15<sup>th</sup> for the first two weeks of the program and on May 29<sup>th</sup> for the latter two. However, other purchases such as airfare still need to be made and paid for, and I would like to do this sooner rather than later to save money. This is the reason for which I ask to receive funding by the end of March. I am currently finalizing my IUP Study Abroad application and will be submitting the form for the pre-approval of coursework at another university in order to obtain credit.

## **Applicant Name**

Street Address, City, ST ZIP Code – Telephone – Email

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### **Education**

*Robert E. Cook Honors College*

*Indiana University of Pennsylvania*

Indiana, Pennsylvania

Fall 2016 – Expected Spring 2020

Major: Undeclared – Freshman Year

Cumulative GPA: 4.00

*Red Lion Area Senior High School*

Red Lion, Pennsylvania

Graduated Spring 2016

Cumulative GPA: 5.0829

Class Rank: 1/361

### **Scholarships**

Academic Merit Scholarship, *The Robert E. Cook Honors College, Indiana, Pennsylvania*

IUP Scholarship, *Indiana University of Pennsylvania*

Sutton Scholarship, *Indiana University of Pennsylvania*

Academic Scholarship, *Red Lion Bus Company*

### **Awards**

Dean's List, *Indiana University of Pennsylvania*

Fall 2016

### **Activities**

*IUP Marching Band ("The Legend")*

Fall 2016

### **Employment**

*Firehouse Subs*

Summer 2016 – Present

2531 E. Market St., York, PA 17402

## **Four Year Plan**

### **Achievement Fund Request: University of Cambridge International Summer Program**

#### **Freshman Year (Currently)**

- Take variety of courses to identify a possible major
- Find a mentor
- Take a foreign language (Arabic)
- Participate in the IUP Marching Band
- Maintain good grades
- Find a club or extracurricular I enjoy

#### **First Summer**

- Study abroad at the University of Cambridge
- Work before going abroad

#### **Sophomore Year**

- Declare a major (likely International Studies and/or English, possibly Computer Science)
- Continue with an extracurricular activity
- Begin networking within department
- Find long-term, career-relevant volunteer/service opportunity
- Join an academic organization/club

#### **Second Summer:**

- Possibly participate with Critical Language Scholarship Program (Arabic), intern with a foreign embassy in D.C., or intern abroad at a US embassy

#### **Junior Year**

- Study abroad (Spring)
- Research graduate schools
- Possibly attend a conference and/or submit work for publication

#### **Third Summer**

- Internship

#### **Senior Year**

- Apply for graduate schools/jobs

#### **Post-graduation**

- Attend graduate school, gain employment or join the Peace Corps