

## Personal Essay

As a child, I always possessed an ethereal thirst for literature. By the tender age of 12, I'd read some of the well acknowledged classics of today; *Pride and Prejudice*, *Great Expectations* and *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. As adult, my passion has translated into a Literatures in English major and a desire to become an international journalist. The need to read novels soon expanded to include novels in other English countries and cultures. In high school and my college career to date, I've spent a large portion of my time acquainting myself with British and American literature. However, I've yet to broach a large reservoir of fascinating and culturally unique English literature, specifically Australian Literature. As someone who has visited Europe and read European literature, acquainting myself with Australian literature and culture is the next step to becoming more well read and knowledgeable in my major. Unfortunately, UCSD does not provide any courses on Australian heritage or literature. As a result, there is no better way for me to fully comprehend the culture and writing of Australian authors than to visit the center of Australian culture, Sydney, Australia. Upon arriving in Australia, I intend to immerse myself as much as possible in Aussie culture. By taking courses on Australian society and literature and involving myself in their student unions and their unique form of government, I'll be able to better understand the culture and customs of Aussies. Of course, better understanding Australian culture won't only benefit the journalist inside me, but the sociologist as well. As a sociology minor, the prospect of examining a culture so richly diverse, from its indigenous people, to its almost socialist method of government, is exciting as well as enriching. I'm looking forward to interacting with Australian people, natives and immigrants alike along with learning about their society

through the classroom. Along with my academic goals, I hope to leave Australia with considerable experience in international reporting and journalism by getting an internship with a local Australian newspaper. The opportunity to report on a culture outside of the United States is the perfect opportunity for me to gain experience directly related to my field of choice. On a personal level, I hope to leave Australia with a heightened sense of appreciation for a culture outside of my own and a memory of my first experience ever living abroad.

Travel has always been an exciting prospect for me, the excitement of going to new places and meeting new people has always been a fun and enjoyable experience. What has allowed me to prepare for such a drastic change in environment is my prior experience traveling abroad, coupled with the extensive list of extra curricular activities I take part in. Both have assisted me in gaining experience in interacting with people in new environments. Changing schools as a child has also helped me become outspoken and lively and taught me how to make friends and get involved.

Unfortunately, without financial assistance, the odds of me being able to go abroad are slim to none. As someone who intends on getting the most out of every part of their experience abroad, the Duttenhaver scholarship would help me enjoy my experience without the added worry of financial stress. As a lit major, I'd take up the task of the return-home report with pleasure, thrilled that I was given the opportunity to begin with. No one would better appreciate the chance to retell their story and relief from financial pressure than myself.