

My interest in politics dates back to my years in the Marines Corps where I learned, first-hand, about the military's role in international affairs and the costs of war. After finishing my military commitment, my curiosity in war, foreign cultures, and governance compelled me to become a college student. I still vividly recall how I felt after the first political science lecture I sat through. I could not believe my college offered a course that aligned so well with my personal interests. Although the professor was a tough grader, I worked hard and earned an A.

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The course taught me an important lesson about education: if you study things you are passionate about, studying can be very fun and fulfilling. From that point on, I knew I wanted to study of politics and pursue a career in diplomacy.

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Within the broad field of Political Science, I have developed a special interest in the area of International Relations, especially political issues concerning the 'Asia Pacific' region.

During my second year in college, I was excited to participate in a Middle Eastern Studies study abroad program under the tutelage of the brilliant UCSB/SBCC professor Dr. Manou Eskandari-Qajar. His mentorship and enthusiastic instruction reinforced and solidified my intense interest in Political Science. After transferring to UC Berkeley, I shifted my attention to the 'Asia Pacific' theatre and focused primarily on Japan.

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After living in Japan during my military service, I was eager to explore the US-Japan security arrangement and more general topics related to Japanese foreign policy. Under the supervision of Professors Andrew Barshay and T.J. Pempel, whose instruction has significantly helped me improve my research and writing skills, I am currently studying the US-Japan security arrangement and Japanese foreign policy.

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Having studied a variety of regional subjects as an undergraduate – including regional study abroad programs to Greece, Turkey, and Japan – I would now like to focus on International Relations Theory, International Security, International Political Economy, and International Law. I studied many of these subjects as an undergraduate, but would like to expand on that knowledge and elevate myself to a higher level of understanding.

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Judging by what I have seen on the Committee on International Relations website, I believe the courses your program offers align with my academic interests.

Drawing on the professionalism that I learned in the United States Marine Corps and the success I have had as an undergraduate college student, I am seeking to broaden my knowledge of International Relations to prepare for a career in diplomacy. I view graduate school as a wonderful opportunity to challenge myself academically and prepare for a career in international affairs. After I earn my master's degree (in what exactly? I would state it here and then capitalize Master's), I intend to serve as a Foreign Service Officer in the U.S. State Department.

I look forward to the challenges and opportunities your program will present. The Committee on International Relations at the University of Chicago is one of the best

schools in the field of International Affairs, and I believe that my personality, leadership skills and passion for International Relations will add to your program. In addition to the school's renowned faculty, it boasts some of the best and brightest students in the world. **T**he Committee on International Relations is the perfect environment for me to become a leader in International Affairs. I hope to have the privilege of continuing my studies at the Committee on International Relations.

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