SMU is a diverse learning environment shaped by the convergence of ideas and cultures. How will your unique experiences or background enhance the University, and how will you benefit from this community?

I come from one of the most culturally diverse and open countries of the world; India. There are about 150 languages spoken in India. Although we Indians clash on many matters, our unique cultural diversity has been one of our greatest strengths. On the surface and by the media, it is always sensationally portrayed how we are still against each other but we have learned that having diverse opinions or perceptions helps us to see the world in a multidimensional way and it helps us in constructing innovative solutions.

When I first shifted to India after living in Indonesia for around 11 years, I realized that the competitive spirit of Indians, the race that Indians have with each other to get into the most prestigious universities, the best paying jobs, or the most luxurious amenities is what drives us and pushes us to the best of our potential. Our economy is currently propelled by the hard working and driven youth of our country that try their best everyday to get on the top. Living in India, has inspired me to work hard and respect everyone’s different struggles and backgrounds.

SMU’s culturally diverse community will help me connect with people from all around the world and understand their different backgrounds and perceptions of the world. With the increased awareness of different cultures and viewpoints, I will be able to successfully communicate with others and make my way.