Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.

For the past 7 years, I have been living in one of the most diverse and populous countries of the world, India. Although we Indians tend to be sensitive in many issues, our unique cultural diversity has been one of our greatest strengths and our biggest unifier. On the surface, one may think that there is too much sensitivity among Indians regarding their respective beliefs and cultures, however, a deeper look shows a highly diverse but exceedingly friendly society. People from different religions and regions live peacefully together in the same neighborhoods. Their children run around and play together.

Delhi, India’s capital boasts one of the largest mosques in India, the Jama Masjid, where everyone is graciously welcomed, regardless of their religious orientation. We have learned to respect each other’s differences and to accept our different counterparts in a whole hearted way. We have great pride and belief in our roots and culture. We celebrate our festivals, Diwali for example, with great pomp, happiness and unity. We still continue to uphold the traditions of respecting our elders by touching their feet when we greet them and treating each and every one of our guests with utmost care like ‘Gods’.

When I permanently shifted to Indian with my family, after living in Indonesia for 11 years, as an adult, the first thing that I noted was the thriving competition in everything. I saw everyone fighting against odds and never giving up. It inspired me to work hard and respect everyone’s different struggles and backgrounds.

Living in Indian also taught me that no matter how high I climb, I should never forget my roots and stay connected with my our humble beginnings. My parents are living examples of this. They moved out from a small rural town in India, worked hard and now live in one of the most premier condominiums in one of India’s biggest metropolitan cities. But this never made them proud.