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 and one of 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. 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 one of our most cherished festivals, Diwali 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, I realized that both Indonesia and India are equally diverse and accepting. Indonesia’s national motto is Bhinneka Tunggal Ika, is an old Javanese expression usually translated as "unity in diversity." Indonesia has always welcomed both Indian and Chinese immigrants with open arms and has allowed them to earn their livelihood and succeed. This has both benefited Indonesia’s growing economy and the immigrants’ lives , living in Indonesia. Living in such culturally diverse countries, has taught me how imperative it is to be open minded and to collaborate to bring the collective community forward.

Living in Indian also taught me that no matter how high I climb, I should never forget my roots and stay connected with my origins. 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. My family has always pushed me to dream as big as I possibly can but they have also taught me the importance of having the courage and determination to work hard.