

Dear Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald,


My name is Brandon Loong, and I am a fourth-year PhD graduate student in engineering at Stanford University. I am writing this letter to express my deepest appreciation for your generous support through the John R. MacDonald Memorial Fellowship. This fellowship allows students like myself to pursue our academic and career goals of furthering scientific knowledge and advancing society.

The financial aid that I have received through this fellowship is especially important because there are sometimes unforeseen events in the course of obtaining a PhD that can severely limit the progress that we students can make. This aid has alleviated some of these unexpected barriers and allowed me to continue pursuing my PhD. The aid has enhanced my appreciation for selfless individuals and motivates me to give back in similar ways where my resources allow.

I originally chose Stanford because it was a university that aligned with the potential that I'd like to have in the world. My academic interests are to investigate issues relating to energy production processes and use that knowledge to address issues in society. Although school takes up most of my time during the day, I also have other responsibilities and activities. My most important and favorite activity is taking care of my family: I have a wife and a 2-year-old son who are happy people and depend on my success in my academic pursuits. I am also involved in my local community church activities, both participating in and organizing events. I am an active person that loves to exercise and play sports. A very unique sport/hobby I have recently become absolutely addicted to is a very rapidly growing sport called Pickleball. It is a sport that looks a lot like tennis, played on a smaller court, but it has some key differences that change the entire feel of the game. It's a great way to stay active and social, as well as meet new people.

Again, I am so thankful for this fellowship that allows me to continue my studies at Stanford. I want to conclude by expressing how one day, I hope I can have a similarly positive influence on someone else's life as you have had on mine through this fellowship. It's remarkable how we can navigate some of the obstacles that life throws at you with the help of selfless individuals who care for a greater good.

My sincerest thanks,

  
Brandon Loong

