

Dear Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald,

My name is Ze Zhang, and I am a second-year graduate student in mechanical engineering at Stanford. I am writing to thank you for your financial support through the John R. MacDonald Memorial Fellowship. I came from China, and finished my undergraduate degree at Tsinghua University, Beijing. Studying in the U.S. is a totally different experience and I am really enjoying it. I truly thank you for your kind support. Otherwise, it would be very hard for me to support myself during graduate school.

Life at Stanford is fantastic. I joined Professor Arun Majumdar's research group in mechanical engineering. I'm finishing my master's degree this quarter and will continue studying for my PhD after that. Our laboratory is mainly studying thermo-science and energy problems. Now, I'm working on tuning the thermal conductivity of materials with applied voltage. This novel material may have application on fluorocarbon free cooling devices. I enjoy studying fundamental science problems and solving engineering issues. During my studies, I am also learning a lot in terms of critical thinking, effective communication with other researchers and a general audience, and idea generation and execution. This will be very helpful for my future career.

I find that Stanford provides so many unique experiences for us. I have gotten to know people from different backgrounds and with different interests. Researchers are actively working on many different issues including ways to improve combustion, energy storage, batteries, waste heat recovery, etc. I can discuss and collaborate with professors from various areas. Also, Stanford recently built an energy center, which uses heat pumps to generate hot and cold water for the whole campus in a very efficient way. It's quite interesting to visit there and see the huge water tank and comprehensive control software. And I believe if I come up with a good idea, I can always find the right person to discuss the idea with and get the proper resources to help me, knowing that Stanford is always behind me.

Apart from my academic life, I used to play soccer at college. But now, I am climbing and hiking with friends. Weather here in California is so nice and

outdoor activities are very enjoyable. My graduate school experience at Stanford is truly precious, giving me the chance to pursue advanced research, exposing me to different cultures and opening my eyes to new ways of thinking. I really want to express my appreciation again and wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

Ze Zhang 张泽

Ze Zhang  
MS Candidate  
Department of Mechanical Engineering  
Stanford University  
Mobile: 650-460-0150  
Email: [zez@stanford.edu](mailto:zez@stanford.edu)

