

Student Profile

Xuxu Song – German PhD Program



Your Time at UCI

What made you decide to pursue a graduate degree?

My dream careers, either a research position in a major international organization or a teaching position in a university, require a PhD degree. It is a fundamental thing.

Why did you choose to come to UCI?

The German department at UCI is renowned. Having lived in Los Angeles for 3 years because of my study at USC, I realized I really needed to live and study in a totally different but quiet place. Irvine is such a city.

If you are conducting research, how would you explain your research and its significance to your grandparent?

My current research focuses on early German romanticism and especially on the collective and collaborative project that the early German romantics put together during their time. I guess the only significance to my grandparent that I can think of is that it is interesting how totally different minds and thoughts can connect with each other through either friendship or a very closed relationship, or through a collective project that brings these differences together. It is important for both our generation and the older generations to be able to understand and communicate with each other, even though there are so many different ways of looking at the world because of our various backgrounds.

What are your hobbies/passions outside of research?

I have a lot of passions about many different kinds of things. I love music growing up, especially singing and playing piano. I'm passionate about sports, such as equestrianism, basketball and swimming. Unusual enough, I am a girl who's very interested in the history of WWII and military aircrafts. Astronomy, geography, and wild animals also fascinate me. Besides all these, my life passions lie in different languages and cultures.

Reflections

What are you most proud of accomplishing (so far) in your graduate program?

In the past academic year, other than being a graduate student in the seminar rooms, I had the opportunity as TA to teach German 1A, 1B, and 1C, which are the fundamental courses for

students who are interested in learning the language. Teaching the language nearly independently has made me understand German culture from another perspective, enriched my professional experiences, and most importantly, allowed me to spread the knowledge and passion I have to my students, which has brought 3 groups of young people into the world of the German language and culture, and thus has possibly opened their eyes to the world a little bit more.

Career

What do you see yourself doing in five or ten years?

I would like to either teach in a university, both the German language and German culture/literature, or work for an international organization, which has been my dream growing up, to help people in need worldwide, improve inter-cultural understanding, and make the world a better place by making use of the knowledge I have equipped myself with as well as the horizons I have been expanding.