

**The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CAL S) develops leaders committed to the improvement of life. Describe how your interest and related experiences have influenced your selection of major and how CAL S will prepare you to be a leader in your chosen field.**

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Global consciousness for the environment is rising, particularly in the United States where our national dependence on oil and concern over global warming is encouraging us to turn to green alternatives. Living in New York City, the epicenter of the national economy, I have also witnessed how our declining economic situation is intimately linked to our concern for the environment. American corporations must adapt to the changing economic and environmental landscape, which means that older business models must shift toward greener, more environmentally-friendly practices that meet today's demand. Naturally, these industries will require innovative leaders and creative professionals who not only possess the cutting-edge skill sets, but also the sensitivities and perspective. My passion for innovative thinking and the environment, coupled with my intellectual interest in Environmental Engineering, makes Cornell the ideal educational setting to undertake my educational aspirations. Whether it is reading the news, observing the marked decline of our neighborhoods and the air we breathe, or learning about environmentally friendly alternatives that can be easily integrated into our daily routines, almost everything I encounter and engage in has influenced my decision to pursue a career in Environmental Engineering.

As an aspiring undergraduate in Environmental Engineering, I romantically envision that my studies and research will have an impact that transcends the four walls of the classroom. Naturally, with a globalized economy and an increasing emphasis on innovative technology, the field of engineering presents the opportunity to contribute to the most cutting-edge developments in science, medicine and healthcare, and business. The research and scholarship at Cornell University has been at the fore of this innovation, which affirms that my enrollment at Cornell will present me with the ideal opportunity and resources empower my studies with action, and maximize the many opportunities in the campus and broader community to enhance my knowledge of Environmental Engineering. Furthermore, society cannot simply change the way it provides energy for its households, fuels its automobiles, or rids of its trash without innovative institutional mechanisms that facilitate that cultural shift. Therefore, Environmental Engineers are pivotal with the broad-based "green revolution" that must occur if we are to preserve our most invaluable resource – the Earth. Environmental engineers are key not only because they design new products that are green-friendly, such as hybrid automobiles or environmentally friendly computers, but also serve as policy leaders, influential scholars and researchers who promote the most environmentally responsible corporate policies. Therefore, my desire to become an Environmental

**ANONYMOUS**

Candidate, Cornell University

Engineer is also fueled by my desire to be a comprehensive leader whose contribution is made with the products and methods I engineer, as well as my capacity to effectuate good policy and public education.

Without question, Cornell will not only furnish me with a world-class education in Environmental Engineering, but also unparalleled learning opportunities that extend into the laboratory, clinical setting, and the field itself – through internship and professional opportunities. As such, my leadership abilities will be cultivated both inside, and outside of the classroom. Guided by my desire to create more green jobs, home weatherizing innovations, and environmentally friendly manufacturing practices, I am convinced that CALS will prepare me for a career in Environmental Engineering. My professional experiences thus far have exposed me to green-friendly practices that developed my interest in Environmental Engineering. During two consecutive summers, I had the opportunity to work at the Maimonides Medical Center and Lutheran Medical Center in New York. Both world-class hospitals were fit with digital X-ray machines that eliminated the need for harmful chemical processing, which had a detrimental impact on patients, staff, and the environment at large. While working in the records offices, I also learned how both Hospitals' kept their records in digital format, ridding of the need to maintain the extensive paper and plastic products. In addition, I discovered that both institutions also used biodegradable cleaning products, which generated an institutional culture of environmental consciousness that was held by everyone from the doctors down to the janitors. I gradually learned more and more about green alternatives to virtually every practice, and even discussed the possibility of the Hospitals use of solar-powered panels as an alternative to using conventional heating practices during the winter with hospital representatives. Although I was still a high school student, I was quickly growing into an engaged mind and advocate for the environment.

Becoming a leader ultimately hinges on the environment one is exposed to, and I cannot think of a more vibrant and inspiring place to study and grow. In addition to becoming an excellent student and engineer, Cornell University's diverse student body and dynamic educational experience will also provide me with an *experience in life* that cannot be measured. As a product of New York City, one of the world's most multicultural and dynamic centers, I have matured tremendously from interacting with, and experiencing, scores of cultures and perspectives. This experience has nurtured my intellect, and shaped me into a tolerant and curious individual. Naturally, this perspective has enriched my ability to think creatively and globally, which inspires my desire to explore learning opportunities far beyond my educational and national boundaries. Cornell's *world of opportunities* and likeminded students will further inspire my capacity to think globally, and pursue educational opportunities that will not only enrich my understanding of Environmental Engineering, but the world in general. I look forward to the prospect of attending Cornell, and grooming myself into an industry leader who will help engineer a world that is greener and more environmentally.