

Diversity Statement

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Commitment: As an international Ph.D. student, I deeply understand and appreciate the importance of diversity, equality, and inclusion in fostering an innovative, supportive, and harmonious community, where I am fully supported. While continually growing in my understanding of these values, I believe that diversity in academia, which can relate to culture, gender, social background, or thought, enhances the quality of research and course study. Improving diversity can benefit the emergence of various ideas, perspectives, and philosophies, which ultimately contribute to more innovative research achievement and outstanding academic performance.

Personal Experience: During my doctoral research at ETH Zurich, I worked closely with students who have different cultural backgrounds (*e.g.*, America, Europe, and Asia), helping them tackle the research challenges that arise from their distinctive perspectives. In addition, my current group led by Prof. Zhendong Su, has been an excellent example of how research groups can embrace and encourage diversity in their research, providing a supportive environment that also includes group events outside of research, to promote and ensure students do not feel isolated in a different country/setting/environment. This experience has deepened my understanding of diversity and enabled me to adapt my advising methodology to adequately support students from different cultures and educational systems. I have realized that a supportive environment that is sensitive to different students' backgrounds is important for their academic excellence.

In addition to cultural diversity, I actively promoted gender inclusion in my teaching as well. In the course where I served as a TA, I have guided many female students to accomplish complicated projects, ensuring that they feel adequately supported in this field where women are traditionally underrepresented. I understand the challenges that women in traditional STEM like computer science may face and am committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming space for all students to grow.

Future Goal: I will continue to advance diversity, equality, and inclusion in my future academic career. I aim to create an inclusive environment where all the students, regardless of their background, feel fully respected and valued, enjoying their studying and researching. I believe that open communication and adequate support are the keys to achieving this goal.

Open Communication. To foster open communication in both research and teaching, I plan to create spaces where diverse perspectives are not only welcomed but also encouraged. I strongly believe that fostering such an environment can lead to new insights and even innovative breakthroughs that might not otherwise happen in a more homogenous setting. In terms of research, I will organize regular group meetings, where all the group members can join and express their ideas and opinions freely. In addition, I will actively encourage collaboration between group members by motivating them to explore the research questions in the interdisciplinary domain, where perspectives from different cultural and academic backgrounds can complement each other and contribute significantly to research progress. In terms of teaching, for each course I teach, I will proactively create an atmosphere where students are encouraged to express their opinions without fear of judgment. To realize this goal, I will motivate the discussion between classmates, encourage questions during lectures, and on any course platforms, collect student feedback, and provide 1-1 consultations. I will ensure that all voices, especially those from underrepresented groups, are fully valued and respected.

Adequate Support. Different students need different types of support to achieve success, and my duty as an educator and mentor is to aim to meet their individual needs. In terms of research, I will offer mentorship tailored to each student's strengths, weaknesses, interests, and needs. For example, I will provide guidance for international students who may suffer from difficulties of working in a new research environment, helping them build new connections with colleagues and get familiar with the research systems and equipment. I will continue to encourage and support female students as they work in a traditionally underrepresented field and ensure their research ability can be fully cultivated. Additionally, I will ensure all students have fair access to the research resources they need to proceed with their research projects. In terms of teaching, I plan to offer diverse learning resources with flexible assessments that can satisfy different learning styles and needs. I will schedule regular office hours and proactively support students who need extra help or guidance. Furthermore, I will actively facilitate campus support services to ensure that students can succeed with adequate academic resources, such as tutoring, counseling, or mentorship programs. By providing various supports customized for different students, I aim to assist all my students in overcoming challenges and succeeding in their academic path.