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My Experience in the USA

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The first couple of months in the US were not easy for me but really something special. I left home for the first time; it was also the first time I ever went abroad. Every day I went to classes then back to the school dorm. I was a very shy student. I found it hard to communicate with others mainly because of language and cultural differences. But I decided to break the wall of shyness and stepped out to talk to people, with much help from my good friends and professors. I now feel happier and more comfortable talking to people and feel more like coming home when going back to my apartment. I especially try to attend outdoor activities, some of which I never imagined myself partaking in, but had wished to be in. I ran in races, tutored, volunteered at the Wider Circle and at fundraisers for Toys for Tots, presented at a science fair, and helped at international orientations for my college to assist new students in becoming more comfortable when studying and living here in the US.



Most of all, I can strive for my goal of being a scientist. When transferring from Vietnam after my sophomore year, I never thought about doing research, since it was only expected to get a job and earn a living after college. Due to the encouragement of my professors and college fellows, I became increasingly interested in reading papers and finding new ideas for current research problems. I spent tremendous hours in the lab seeking solutions. As a researcher and a student, I have learned self-competence is the most important factor to become a success, no matter what the goal. To learn to be successful, one has to learn from failure. If one fails again, fail better. This self-competence is not only for a career; it is also for life full of joy. Helping people, being positive, creative and enthusiastic, as my mom taught me, are what I attempt every day.