

Arabic**CLS Language**

How many years of formal language study (or equivalent) will you have completed by summer 2010? 1.0

According to the guidelines provided in the Application Instructions, what is your self-assessed level for the 2010 CLS Program? Advanced Beginning

Applicant Name: Madurai Nainita Kumar
Last First Middle (Nickname or Preferred First Name)

Maiden/Other Last Name

nkm23@case.edu

nitaski91@hotmail.com

Primary E-Mail Address

Alternate E-Mail Address (optional)

Are you a U.S. citizen? • Yes

No

Do you hold dual citizenship with another country? _____

Dual Citizenship: If naturalized, please provide date of naturalization. _____

Gender: Male • Female

Date of Birth: 01/10/1991 Country of Birth: United States of America

City of Birth: Amherst State of Birth: New York

Passport Information:

Do you have a U.S. passport valid with your legal name through March 2011? Yes • No

Passport Number: 105538115 Passport Authority: US Department of State

Passport Date of Issue: 05/22/2006 Passport Date of Expiration: 05/21/2011

Current Address:

42 Prestonwood Ln

Street Address Street Address 2

East Amherst New York 14051 United States of America (716) 908-4594

City State Zip Country Telephone Number

Permanent Contact Information

Is your permanent address the same as your mailing address? Yes • No

42 Prestonwood Ln

Street Address Street Address 2

East Amherst New York 14051 United States of America (716) 908-4594

City State Zip Country Telephone Number

Congressional Voting District: 98

Felony/Misdemeanor Conviction: Are you under current indictment for or have you ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor (excluding minor traffic violations)? Yes No •

If yes, please explain.

How did you learn about the CLS Program?

My mother informed me about the CLS program and I did further research online.

School Record: Have you ever been the subject of academic or non-academic disciplinary action or been suspended or expelled from school for any disciplinary or honor code infraction? Yes No •

If yes, please explain.

Current College/University

Please list the college or university at which you are currently enrolled in a degree-granting program. The questions below pertain to your current college or university.

Educational Status: Undergraduate Stu College/University Code: 3244

College/University Name: CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIV City: CLEVELAND State: OH

Number of Terms Completed: 3 Anticipated Date of Graduation if applicable: 2012

Dates Attended: 08/2008 to present

Academic Discipline/Field of Study: Anthropology

Major: Anthropology Major 2: International Study Minor: Arabic

GPA or N/A: 3.6 If N/A, please explain:

Please provide the last date of classes or mandatory exams for your spring term 2010 at your current institution?
05/06

Will you be enrolled in courses at this college/university during the spring 2010 academic term? Yes • No

Will you be enrolled in courses at this college/university during the fall 2010 academic term? Yes • No

Previous College/University

Educational Status: _____ College/University Code: _____

College/University Name: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Dates Attended: _____

Academic Discipline/Field of Study: _____

Degree Awarded, if applicable: _____ Date Degree Awarded, if applicable: _____

GPA or N/A: _____ If N/A, please explain: _____

College/University 3

Educational Status: _____ College/University Code: _____

College/University Name: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Dates Attended: _____

Academic Discipline/Field of Study: _____

2010 CLS Program Application

Degree Awarded, if applicable: _____ Date Degree Awarded, if applicable: _____

GPA or N/A: _____ If N/A, please explain: _____

College/University 4

Educational Status: _____ College/University Code: _____

College/University Name: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Dates Attended: _____

Academic Discipline/Field of Study: _____

Degree Awarded, if applicable: _____ Date Degree Awarded, if applicable: _____

GPA or N/A: _____ If N/A, please explain: _____

Anticipated Spring 2010 Courses

Please list the courses that you plan to enroll in for the Spring semester.

- ANTH 103: Intro to Human Evolution
- ANTH 388: Globalization and Development
- ARAB 102: Beginning Arabic II
- STAT 201: Basic Statistics for Social Sciences and Life Sciences
- USSO: Change Agents: Past, Present, and Future
- POSC 380: The State and War in the Middle East

Other Fellowships

Please list any other academic honors or previous fellowships received.

- AP Scholar with Distinction
- Presidential Scholarship at Case Western Reserve University (\$22,000 per year)
- AmeriCorps Builds Lives through Education Service Scholarship (\$1000)

Previous CLS Awards:

Did you apply for the CLS Program in the past? Yes No •

If selected, please indicate all CLS Programs attended from 2006-2009 (year, language, level, site).

If selected and did not attend, please explain.

Please provide brief details on up to three professional positions or internships relevant to your professional/academic goals.

Employer 1 Name: Cradle Beach Camp Position: Camp Counselor

From: From 06/20/2009 To present

Brief Description of Duties: Camp counselor for children

Employer 2 Name: _____ Position: _____

From: _____

Brief Description of Duties: _____

Employer 3 Name: _____ Position: _____

From: _____

Brief Description of Duties: _____

Please list any volunteer involvement and/or campus activities, especially activities that relate to your interest in the target language or culture or demonstrate leadership.

1. Student Leadership Journey Council - Purpose: brings speakers and leaders from around the Cleveland area to talk to students and provide resources for them to get involved outside of Case Western; also organizes retreats for and promotes development and healthy relations between and within other organizations on campus.
2. Dhamakapella - Indian and Western a cappella group. Positions held: Secretary (2009), Vice President (2010)
3. Amherst Youth Engaged in Service - Purpose: community services throughout the city of Buffalo
4. Habitat for Humanity
5. Case Croquet Club
6. High School Student Council: Position held: Class Secretary (2008)

2010 CLS Program Application

Please indicate the range of contact hours of formal language study or the equivalent that you anticipate completing by the beginning of the 2010 CLS Program. 76-100

Please provide details on the target language courses that you are currently enrolled in during the fall 2009 term.

Current Course Information:

Course Title: Beginning Arabic I

Institution: Case Western Reserve University

Instructor's Name: Ramez Islambouli

Textbook Information: Alif Baa with Multimedia

Primary Textbook Used: _____

Which chapters of the textbook did/will you complete by the course's end? 1-10

Secondary Textbook Used (optional) Al Kitaab

Which chapters of the second textbook did/will you complete by the course's end? (optional) 1-3

Course Dates: 08/2009 - 12/2009

Course Grade: A Number of weeks in class term: 14

Average number of hours spent per week on written homework: 3

Average number of hours spent per week on oral practice outside of class: 1

Average number of hours spent per week on oral practice in the classroom: 3

Approximate % of classroom time spoken in the target language either by the instructor or students 50%

Please list all target language courses you completed prior to the fall 2010 semester beginning with the most recent. Please list all courses whether you took them in the U.S. or abroad. Please do not list literature or culture classes unless they were taught in the target language.

Previous Language Course 2

Course Title: _____

Institution: _____

Instructor's Name: _____

Textbook Information: _____

Primary Textbook Used: _____

Which chapters of the textbook did/will you complete by the course's end? _____

Secondary Textbook Used (optional) _____

Which chapters of the second textbook did/will you complete by the course's end? (optional) _____

Course Dates: _____

Course Grade: _____ Number of weeks in class term: _____

Average number of hours spent per week on written homework: _____

Average number of hours spent per week on oral practice outside of class: _____

Average number of hours spent per week on oral practice in the classroom: _____

Approximate % of classroom time spoken in the target language either by the instructor or students _____

Previous Language Course 3

Course Title: _____

Institution: _____

Instructor's Name: _____

Textbook Information: _____

Primary Textbook Used: _____

Which chapters of the textbook did/will you complete by the course's end? _____

Secondary Textbook Used (optional) _____

Which chapters of the second textbook did/will you complete by the course's end? (optional) _____

Course Dates: _____

Course Grade: _____ Number of weeks in class term: _____

2010 CLS Program Application

Average number of hours spent per week on written homework: _____
Average number of hours spent per week on oral practice outside of class: _____
Average number of hours spent per week on oral practice in the classroom: _____
Approximate % of classroom time spoken in the target language either by the instructor or students _____

Previous Language Course 4

Course Title: _____
Institution: _____
Instructor's Name: _____
Textbook Information: _____
Primary Textbook Used: _____
Which chapters of the textbook did/will you complete by the course's end? _____
Secondary Textbook Used (optional) _____
Which chapters of the second textbook did/will you complete by the course's end? (optional) _____
Course Dates: _____
Course Grade: _____ Number of weeks in class term: _____
Average number of hours spent per week on written homework: _____
Average number of hours spent per week on oral practice outside of class: _____
Average number of hours spent per week on oral practice in the classroom: _____
Approximate % of classroom time spoken in the target language either by the instructor or students _____

Previous Language Course 5

Course Title: _____
Institution: _____
Instructor's Name: _____
Textbook Information: _____
Primary Textbook Used: _____
Which chapters of the textbook did/will you complete by the course's end? _____
Secondary Textbook Used (optional) _____
Which chapters of the second textbook did/will you complete by the course's end? (optional) _____
Course Dates: _____
Course Grade: _____ Number of weeks in class term: _____
Average number of hours spent per week on written homework: _____
Average number of hours spent per week on oral practice outside of class: _____
Average number of hours spent per week on oral practice in the classroom: _____
Approximate % of classroom time spoken in the target language either by the instructor or students _____

Previous Language Course 6

Course Title: _____
Institution: _____
Instructor's Name: _____
Textbook Information: _____
Primary Textbook Used: _____
Which chapters of the textbook did/will you complete by the course's end? _____
Secondary Textbook Used (optional) _____
Which chapters of the second textbook did/will you complete by the course's end? (optional) _____
Course Dates: _____
Course Grade: _____ Number of weeks in class term: _____
Average number of hours spent per week on written homework: _____
Average number of hours spent per week on oral practice outside of class: _____
Average number of hours spent per week on oral practice in the classroom: _____
Approximate % of classroom time spoken in the target language either by the instructor or students _____

Previous Language Course 7

Course Title: _____

Institution: _____

Instructor's Name: _____

Textbook Information: _____

Primary Textbook Used: _____

Which chapters of the textbook did/will you complete by the course's end? _____

Secondary Textbook Used (optional) _____

Which chapters of the second textbook did/will you complete by the course's end? (optional) _____

Course Dates: _____

Course Grade: _____ Number of weeks in class term: _____

Average number of hours spent per week on written homework: _____

Average number of hours spent per week on oral practice outside of class: _____

Average number of hours spent per week on oral practice in the classroom: _____

Approximate % of classroom time spoken in the target language either by the instructor or students _____

Previous Language Course 8

Course Title: _____

Institution: _____

Instructor's Name: _____

Textbook Information: _____

Primary Textbook Used: _____

Which chapters of the textbook did/will you complete by the course's end? _____

Secondary Textbook Used (optional) _____

Which chapters of the second textbook did/will you complete by the course's end? (optional) _____

Course Dates: _____

Course Grade: _____ Number of weeks in class term: _____

Average number of hours spent per week on written homework: _____

Average number of hours spent per week on oral practice outside of class: _____

Average number of hours spent per week on oral practice in the classroom: _____

Approximate % of classroom time spoken in the target language either by the instructor or students _____

Previous Language Course 9

Course Title: _____

Institution: _____

Instructor's Name: _____

Textbook Information: _____

Primary Textbook Used: _____

Which chapters of the textbook did/will you complete by the course's end? _____

Secondary Textbook Used (optional) _____

Which chapters of the second textbook did/will you complete by the course's end? (optional) _____

Course Dates: _____

Course Grade: _____ Number of weeks in class term: _____

Average number of hours spent per week on written homework: _____

Average number of hours spent per week on oral practice outside of class: _____

Average number of hours spent per week on oral practice in the classroom: _____

Approximate % of classroom time spoken in the target language either by the instructor or students _____

Other Courses

If you have taken more courses than the space above allows, please describe any further coursework following the same format as required above.

- ANTH 103: Intro to Human Evolution
- ANTH 388: Globalization and Development
- ARAB 102: Beginning Arabic II
- STAT 201: Basic Statistics for Social Sciences and Life Sciences
- USSO: Change Agents: Past, Present, and Future
- POSC 380: The State and War in the Middle East

Additional Language Information

If you have acquired knowledge of the target language through means other than formal courses at a high school, college, or university, please explain below. If any of your family members or close friends speak the target language, please briefly describe your interactions with him/her/them, including the frequency and level of conversations in the target language. Please also detail any private or small group tutoring you have received in the target language. Please provide as much information as possible on the number of hours per week that you met with a tutor or small group, any textbooks used, and the number of chapters covered.

Self-Assessed Ability

Speaking: Elementary Proficiency Listening: Elementary Proficiency

Reading: Limited Working Proficiency Writing: Limited Working Proficiency

Please rate your current overall proficiency in the target language: Elementary Proficiency

Dialect

Do you have a knowledge of a specific dialect (where applicable)? N

If yes, which dialect? Please provide additional information on your familiarity with the dialect.

What was the primary language spoken in your home during your childhood? English

What, if any, was the secondary language spoken in your home during your childhood? Tegulu

What is the primary language spoken in your home today? English

What, if any, is the secondary language spoken in your home today? Tegulu

Other Formal Language/s Studied

Please list the languages that you have studied formally, where you studied the language (high school, college, study abroad, etc.), and for how long.

Spanish in Transit Middle School, East High School, and Case Western Reserve University, for a total of 9 years.

Target Language Travel

Have you ever traveled to a country where the target language is spoken? For each visit, please list the country/countries, year of visit, length of visit, sponsoring organization (if any), and purpose, in list format.

Other Travel

Other than the travel listed above, please list any international travel over two weeks in length. For each trip, please provide the country/countries, year of visit, length of visit, sponsoring organization (if any), and purpose, in list format.

1. Europe (United Kingdom, France, Germany): June/July of 2008 for 2.5 weeks, sponsored by American Music Abroad, for the purpose of performing patriotic music in small venues across Europe
2. India: June/July of 2007 for 1 month, for the purpose of visiting family, attending a wedding, and traveling to see the Taj Mahal and other sights
3. India: August of 2001, for the purpose of visiting family
4. India: December of 1994 to January of 1995, for the purpose of visiting family and attending a wedding

2010 CLS Program Application

Essay Question #1: (300 word limit) Please explain how you became interested in studying the target language, and what you have done prior to this application to learn about the language and region in which the targeted language is spoken.

Essay Question #2: (300 word limit) Please explain what you hope to obtain from participation in an intensive language program overseas and how it will contribute to your immediate and long-range goals. Within your response, please include answers to the following questions:

- a. How does the program fit into your current academic and future career plans?
- b. How will your study of this language help you to achieve those goals?

Essay Question #3: (300 word limit) To achieve proficiency and/or mastery of a language offered in the Critical Language Scholarship Program requires an extensive commitment of time and personal dedication. Although there is no service requirement attached to the CLS award, participants are expected to continue their language study beyond the scholarship period, and later apply their critical language skills in their future professional careers. Please explain how you expect to build on the language skills acquired through the CLS Program. Within your response, please include answers to the following questions:

- a. What language courses do you plan to take in the future? If language courses are not offered at your institution, what specific steps will you take to continue your language study?
- b. What resources have you identified to further your study of the language? These resources may include those available through your college or university, community organizations, or personal and professional contacts.
- c. If you are applying for a beginning-level program and the language you wish to study is taught at your institution, please explain why you have not integrated study of the language into your current academic program prior to this application.

Essay Question #4: (300 word limit) The CLS Program offers an intensive language immersion program overseas that is academically and personally challenging. CLS institutes require over four hours of class five days per week, with additional hours of homework, tutoring, and mandatory activities. Many programs are hosted in countries with living conditions different from typical U.S.-student accommodations. Students are taught by teachers from the host country in styles that may vary from those experienced in a U.S. classroom. In addition, the CLS institutes are group-based programs and require extensive interaction with a diverse group of undergraduate and graduate students during the program. Please describe what experiences and unique personal qualities you would bring to the program and that have prepared you to be a flexible, respectful and mature recipient of a CLS award. Within your response, please include the following information:

- a. Please describe any living/working experiences you have had, either overseas or in the U.S. (such as in the classroom, in dormitories or residences, work or volunteer activities, etc.) where you have been required to interact with people from backgrounds different than your own.
- b. Please describe how you have dealt with challenging living situations or different cultural situations, and how you plan to deal with living conditions and experiences that may be quite different from those you may have encountered previously in the U.S.
- c. Please describe the personal qualities that you will contribute to a positive group language-learning experience overseas.

Unofficial Transcript 1

Student ID: 3194473
 SSN: XXX-XX-3159
 Student Name: Nainita Kumar Madurai

Cumulative Grade Report

Nainita Madurai
 Page 1 of 1
 12/18/2009 462609

Academic Program History

Program: Undeclared Undergraduate
 Active in Program

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|-------|-------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Term GPA: | 3.813 | Term Totals | <u>Attempted</u> 16.00 | <u>Earned</u> 16.00 | <u>Averaged</u> 16.00 | <u>Points</u> 61.000 |
| Cum GPA: | 3.394 | Cum Totals | 33.00 | 33.00 | | 112.000 |

Test Credits

Applied Toward Undeclared Undergraduate Program

| Course | Description | Attempted | Earned | Grade | Points |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| POSC 109 | The American Political System | | 3.00 | AP | |
| MATH 121 | Calc for Science & Engr I | | 4.00 | AP | |
| MUTH 103 | Theory I | | 3.00 | AP | |
| PHYS 115 | Introductory Physics I | | 4.00 | AP | |
| HSTY 256 | American Political History | | 3.00 | AP | |
| BIOL 214L | Genes and Evolution Laboratory | | 1.00 | AP | |
| BIOL 214 | Genes and Evolution | | 3.00 | AP | |
| Course Trans GPA: | 0.000 | Transfer Totals: | 0.00 | | 21.00 |
| | | | | | 0.000 |

Fall 2009

| Course | Description | Attempted | Earned | Grade | Points |
|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------|--------|-------|--------|
| ANTH 379 | Topics in Cult & Social Anth | 3.00 | 3.00 | A | 12.000 |
| Course Topic: | Cultures of Latin America | | | | |
| ARAB 101 | Beginning Arabic I | 4.00 | 4.00 | A | 16.000 |
| SPAN 202 | Intermediate Spanish II | 4.00 | 4.00 | A | 16.000 |
| ANTH 313 | Anthropology of Adolescence | 3.00 | 3.00 | A | 12.000 |
| POSC 373 | Politics of The European Union | 3.00 | 3.00 | A | 12.000 |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|-------|-------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Term GPA: | 4.000 | Term Totals | <u>Attempted</u> 17.00 | <u>Earned</u> 17.00 | <u>Averaged</u> 17.00 | <u>Points</u> 68.000 |
| Cum GPA: | 3.600 | Cum Totals | 50.00 | 50.00 | | 180.000 |

Beginning of Undergraduate Record

| Course | Description | Attempted | Earned | Grade | Points |
|----------|-------------------------------|-----------|--------|-------|--------|
| ECON 102 | Prin of Microeconomics | 3.00 | 3.00 | B | 9.000 |
| FSCC 100 | Life of the Mind | 4.00 | 4.00 | B | 12.000 |
| MATH 126 | Math/Calc Life/Man/Soc Sci II | 4.00 | 4.00 | B | 12.000 |
| PHIL 101 | Introduction to Philosophy | 3.00 | 3.00 | B | 9.000 |
| POSC 379 | Mid East:Pol/Econ/Amer Policy | 3.00 | 3.00 | B | 9.000 |

Spr 2010

| Course | Description | Attempted | Earned | Grade | Points |
|----------|--------------------------------|-----------|--------|-------|--------|
| ANTH 103 | Intro to Human Evolution | 3.00 | 0.00 | | 0.000 |
| ANTH 388 | Globalization and Development | 3.00 | 0.00 | | 0.000 |
| ARAB 102 | Beginning Arabic II | 4.00 | 0.00 | | 0.000 |
| STAT 201 | Bas Stat Soc Sci & Life Sci | 3.00 | 0.00 | | 0.000 |
| USSO 239 | Change Agents | 3.00 | 0.00 | | 0.000 |
| POSC 380 | The State & War in Middle East | 3.00 | 0.00 | | 0.000 |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|-------|-------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Term GPA: | 3.000 | Term Totals | <u>Attempted</u> 17.00 | <u>Earned</u> 17.00 | <u>Averaged</u> 17.00 | <u>Points</u> 51.000 |
| Cum GPA: | 3.000 | Cum Totals | 17.00 | 17.00 | | 51.000 |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Career Totals | | | <u>Attempted</u> 69.00 | <u>Earned</u> 50.00 | <u>Averaged</u> 50.00 | <u>Points</u> 180.000 |
| Cum GPA: | 3.600 | Cum Totals | | | | |
| Total Credits Earned: | 71.00 | | | | | |

Spr 2009

| Course | Description | Attempted | Earned | Grade | Points |
|-----------|------------------------------|-----------|--------|-------|--------|
| ANTH 102 | Being Humn Intr Soc/Cul Anth | 3.00 | 3.00 | A | 12.000 |
| ECON 103 | Prin of Macroeconomics | 3.00 | 3.00 | B | 9.000 |
| POSC 272 | Intro to Internatl Relations | 3.00 | 3.00 | A | 12.000 |
| SPAN 201 | Intermediate Spanish I | 4.00 | 4.00 | A | 16.000 |
| USSY 2850 | Imagining India | 3.00 | 3.00 | A | 12.000 |

Essay 1:

The Arabic language and the Middle Eastern region struck my attention in high school during the religions unit in a world history course. The importance of religion in the Middle East and the importance of Islam in the Arabic language are highly relative to the study of Arabic as a whole. Islam is a fascinating religion that has unfortunately been associated with terrorism in the United States. However, this ignorant thought is one belief I and many others, including President Obama, have openly rejected. I am interested in learning more about the role of religion in Middle Eastern politics.

My first year in college, I enrolled in a course on the politics of the Middle East because I was interested in learning more about the currently turbulent region that was once the birthplace of civilization. In this course we examined why the Middle East is one of the most volatile regions in the world. We discussed the effects that politics, religion, economics, and international relations have had on the history and current situation of the Middle East. It was an enlightening and engaging course and I am taking its supplementary course, called the State and War in the Middle East, during the Spring 2010 semester.

For me, the Middle East is a fascinating and extraordinary region because of its long, tumultuous history. I am intrigued even further by both the ominous *and* optimistic prospects that lay ahead for the Middle Eastern region. These factors sparked my interest to learn Arabic. Arabic is not only a beautifully spoken language but it also very famous for its artistic and intricate script. During my study of Arabic I hope to also improve my Arabic calligraphy and explore the unique Arabic and Islamic architecture.

Essay 2:

The intensive study of Arabic in a country where it is natively spoken will be a tremendously educational experience for me in my future endeavors. It will give me a better understanding of both the language and the unique culture that I have read and heard so much about.

I am currently studying cultural anthropology and my future plan involves participant-observation field work in the Middle East. Specifically, I would like to study adolescence in the Middle East. After taking a course called the Anthropology of Adolescence I have recognized the importance of researching adolescents in a rapidly changing world. Adolescents make up the generation that could have the most influence on the political, economic and social aspects of the future, especially in the Middle East. As a part of my research I plan to study the effects of war, a conservative religion, and a changing culture on child development and adolescence. To develop good rapport with the people I wish to study I need to be able to speak and understand their language and specific dialect; this is especially important when working with adolescents. Anthropological fieldwork requires that the anthropologist not only observes the target group but also is integrated into the culture he or she is studying.

In the field of International Studies I would like to do further research on why joint political and economic institutions, such as the European Union, fail in the Middle East. This research would include studying the internal and external efficacy of the Arab League and eventually lead to conclusions that could allow the formation of joint institutions. To get the people's perspective in these regions I need to be fluent in Arabic. Thus, the study of Arabic, which is the official language of the Arab League, is an integral part in my career plans for the future.

Essay 3:

The intense language experience CLS program provides will certainly have tremendous influence on my studies and my career goal in Middle Eastern diplomacy. As an undergraduate and a double major in International Studies and Anthropology I am also planning to complete a minor in Arabic. I will be required to take at least three more Arabic courses after next summer. In addition, I plan on taking Islamic studies courses as well as political science courses on the Middle East. I also am looking into study abroad programs in other Arabic speaking countries. Specifically, I would like to study at either the American University in Cairo in Egypt or the American University in Beirut in Lebanon. For future career endeavors, I would like to develop at least some dialectical skills in every Arabic speaking country.

Because my school offers Arabic as only a minor I am limited in my course selection. However, I hope that by the time I am a junior it will also be offered as a major. I have talked to my professor and a group of students about requesting the deans of my university to provide the resources so that they can offer Arabic as a major. If we are able to gather enough support and interest in studying the language, Case Western may provide us with further resources and new professors that will improve Arabic and Islamic studies.

I would also like to travel to the Middle East informally with my family. Specifically, I am interested in visiting the abundant ancient architectural marvels all throughout the region such as Petra in Jordan. However, I would like to be a tourist that knows the language of the country in which I am traveling. Thus, I will integrate Arabic into both my personal experiences as well as my academic pursuits.

Essay 4:

From a very young age, I have been able to adapt well in social situations. I am sociable and energetic in even the most diverse group settings. Because I handle stress well, I project my optimism and amicability, which allows me to befriend people very quickly.

In 2008 I auditioned for a band and choir program called American Music Abroad that brought students from around the country to perform in small venues across Europe. This experience familiarized me with experiencing different people in foreign settings. I only spent four weeks with those musicians but we shared incredibly emotional moments throughout the trip.

During the Summer of 2009, working at Cradle Beach Camp, a camp for disabled and disadvantaged children, was one of the most eye-opening experiences for me. It was a twenty-four hour job and up to sixteen of those hours were spent awake and alert, looking after children. I worked with rude and sometimes violent children from the inner-city as well as children who have physical and mental impairments. Most of the campers came from vastly different backgrounds than me and I learned a lot from them. Despite their negative and debilitating attributes, I loved these unlikely campers. There is an underlying unity among all people, no matter where they come from or what adversities they may have faced.

I am an avid traveler. Within the US I have visited many states, which often have unique cultures. Internationally, I have traveled through many countries in Europe and in India. I am familiar with being in cultural situations that I am not used to in the States. These have given me an insight into what life and culture is like in other areas of the world. I am not only prepared but excited for the rigorous and immersive learning experience that CLS will offer me.