

Prompt: Please describe any experience you have had living outside the United States for more than 2 years.

“Oh man, why did those people have to be so wicked? Why did they try to build the tower of Babel up to heaven? Because of them everyone has to speak different languages!” I complained to my mom as we walked back to our apartment in Germany.

When I found out that we were moving to Germany for my dad to finish his PhD, at first I was thrilled. But once we got there, being a second grader with no friends, no sense of direction, and no German language skills, the excitement quickly wore off. It was summer break, and we were living downtown, so there were no children in sight.

My sisters and I entertained ourselves by playing crab soccer (using a toilet paper roll for the ball), jumping rope endlessly in the courtyard, and watching the street pigeons pick at the pretzel crumbs on the streets. Finally, we found a place to move into a neighborhood and started attending the local public elementary school.

For the first couple of months, I struggled. Not only was I learning German, I also had to learn to read and write cursive. When my kind teacher would write the instructions in English for me, I was embarrassed that I couldn't read her writing. I watched the clock constantly and got really good at calculating how much time was left before I could go home.

Even though it was hard, wonderful people surrounded me and my family. My classmates were learning English, and they tried to make me feel included with phrases they were learning like, “Look there is a yellow canary,” and, “I like your red trousers.” (Even though there were no birds in sight and I was wearing jeans). People in our neighborhood and branch at church helped us understand the culture, shop, and feel welcome.

Over time, I began to learn new words, phrases, and then sentences. Soon, I was giving presentations in front of my class, singing in our school's Christmas program, and reading German novels. When my sisters and I fought, we would switch to German because it was easier.

After finishing my homework, I would run over to my friends' houses, to the tiny bookstore, or to play outside on our homemade stilts. Our town was small enough that almost everything was within walking distance, so we did not have a car. We took the train to church and to go downtown when we needed it.

Now that I live in California, I think back to Germany fondly. We still speak German at breakfast, so I have retained most of the language, but I also have kept more important lessons with me. I learned how difficult it is to become acclimated in a new environment. I remember how hard I struggled at first. But even with memories of boredom, embarrassment and frustration, they are dim and insignificant compared to the happy memories of friendship, triumph, and pride. This fills me with motivation and empathy as I strive to befriend those who are in similar situations.

Please write a biographical sketch about yourself.

At two, I tiptoed into our garden, the sun just coming up over the Utah mountains, hungry for fresh raspberries. My mom picked alongside me, laughing as more raspberries ended up in my mouth than my basket. We then snuck back into the house, ready to share the few uneaten ones with the rest of my family. From this, I learned how fun it is to share, especially with those you love.

Four. My grandma patiently reminded me not to lick my fingers until after I was done helping with the cinnamon rolls. As I spread the sugar onto the dough, she would tell me stories from when she was my age. While we waited, she taught me how to tie my shoes, sound out words, and that good things are worth waiting for.

Six. Once my older sister decided she did not like tuna, I decided I no longer liked it either. It was not until recently that I tried it again the way I used to love it—on hotdog buns with pickles, that I rediscovered what I had been missing out on. I realized that I should stick to my opinions, even for little things like tuna.

Eight. My family moved to Germany for my dad to finish his PhD. As he worked on his schooling, I worked on mine, attending the public elementary school, not knowing any German. I soon began to learn words like, "Spruedel Wasser," meaning sparkling water, which is the norm there. Not only did I become fluent in the language, but also assimilated into the culture, while developing friendships.

Ten. I would run down to the Marktplatz with my friends to buy gelato on hot summer days. We would try to balance savoring it and eating it quickly before it melted. I learned the importance of friendship and the significance of communicating without words.

Twelve. I moved back to the United States, only this time to California. I was convinced I had made the best invention ever—applesauce and yogurt. I ate it as often as I could and promised myself that when I went to college, that would be all I ever ate. From this I learned that there is such a thing as too much of a good thing. I no longer love it.

Fourteen. My Chinese friend invited me to stay for dinner. When I found out that spicy chicken feet were being served, I hesitated, but decided that I should branch out and try new things. It was around this time that I started gaining confidence in myself to try new things, including taking difficult classes, joining and founding clubs, and meeting new people.

Sixteen. The COVID lockdown hit, and I teamed up with one of my four sisters to research, cook, plate, photograph, and post a dish from all 196 countries. From this, I further learned to value culture, language, and sharing good food with others.

When my friends graduated from high school, I made a huge batch of the iconic mint brownies to celebrate their acceptance into BYU. As we shared memories and said our goodbyes, I

recommitted to continue working hard. I hope that next year, I will be making another batch—this time to celebrate my own acceptance letter.

Please describe your educational, professional, and other goals. Describe how BYU will help you achieve them.

When I was five, my sisters and I carefully hand-lettered business cards with, “Sweet Sisters, Treat Yourself! Bakery and Salon.” We planned everything from which desserts we would sell to how much we would charge for hourly massages.

I also dreamed of becoming a giraffe trainer, an artist, and a teacher. Later, I fell in love with the idea of being a party and wedding planner, or a personal chef.

Even though I am no longer seriously considering any of these careers, they each reflect a phase of my life and highlight an interest that is still part of me.

I have many interests, but am still searching for my passion. I enjoy languages; I’m fluent in German, taking Chinese, and picking up some Spanish at work. I like biology. I enjoy reading, writing, and discussing stories. I think it’s wonderful to both make and appreciate art. I have a lot of fun writing, directing, and editing short films and documentaries. I find satisfaction in helping others, especially elderly people and young children. In my free time, I bake, cook, and eat delicious food.

And yet, when I think about spending the rest of my life focusing on any one of these things, I feel overwhelmed and hesitant. One of my main goals at college is to find something that I am excited to do each day, and will allow me to be fulfilled, while helping others.

One reason that I love BYU is its flexibility and diversity of classes and majors, including 62 languages. I also am excited for the many hands-on experiences BYU has that allows students implement what they are learning. When my dad was still attending BYU, I was lucky enough to go to the BYU preschool, which was full of eager student teachers. I still have many wonderful memories of preschool filled with helpful teachers, delicious food from the culinary students, and many hands-on activities.

In addition to my goal of figuring out my passion, I also want to develop my testimony. I believe that even though it is possible to have and grow a testimony anywhere, there is strength in being surrounded by others who are striving to keep the same standards. Living where there are only a couple of other members at my school, I am aware of the stark contrast between a place centered on the gospel and one that is secular. Going to seminary, activities and church is always a breath of fresh air, and at BYU I could have that same feeling more often.

I am excited for the vast choices in gospel classes, such as Eternal Families and The Living Prophets. As I take gospel classes, learn more about the Church, and discuss ideas, I know that

my testimony will have a place to flourish, and I will be able to become more comfortable in sharing the gospel.

With the unique motto of “Enter to learn, go forth to serve,” I am confident that as I figure out my passion and strengthen my testimony, with the resources at BYU, I will be able to do just that.

Please list and/or describe your participation and leadership during the last three years in extracurricular activities, including performance groups, athletics, cultural and civic clubs, and church and community service. Limit your response to 3000 characters.

Carl's Jr. Opener/Cashier/Trainer → June 2021-Present (Full time during Summer, currently part time)

I open at 5:30 am to manage the lobby and the drive-thru. I train new employees as well as clean, stock, and help customers.

Nanny/Babysitter → January 2015-Present

I started by babysitting my younger siblings, and now I babysit families from our neighborhood and church. Summer going into Junior year I had a couple of nannying jobs.

Video Editor/Website Designer and Manager → August 2020 - Present

Mrs. Moskowitz's Knits (Independent local business), The Student Summit (Special Ed. Foundation)

I edited commercials, instructional videos, and websites; designed thumbnails and navigation tools; communicated with and taught clients how to use technology to help their businesses grow.

Caring for Elderly Woman → April 2020 - April 2021

I helped take care of and keep an elderly woman company in her home a couple times a week for almost a year. She has since moved into a full care center.

Early-Morning Seminary with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints →

2018-2022

I attend early-morning seminary before school every day for an hour of scripture learning. I have earned 100% attendance and 100% reading completion.

Personal Progress

I earned my Personal Progress Medallion, comparable to the Eagle Scout award, including 50 experiences and 8 10-hour projects that helped me gain lifelong skills.

Make A Birthday Wish Club → Summer of 2020-Summer 2021

Member (9th grade), Secretary (10), Vice President (11), President (12)

We work closely with the Ecumenical Hunger Program to organize and host birthday parties for

qualifying children.

Hot-S-Pot, the Official Student-Led Cooking Club → Co-founder and Public Relations Manager
(11th & 12th grade)

We test recipes, host guest cooks of varying cultures. I manage the club's Instagram, design the flyers, and send emails.

Assistant Stage Manager, High School Musical the Musical → 25 hours/week November 2019
- January 2020

Coordinated curtains, sets, props, stage calls, timing, and communication from the sound booth to backstage.

Volunteer Online Tutor, Summer Reader → Summer of 2020-Summer 2021

Quarantutors (Quarantine virtual tutoring program), Lots of Love (Reading to kids who live in RVs)

Prepared and taught a reading and math lesson for a kindergartner weekly. I read to and played games with English language learners.

YCL (Youth Camp Leader) → Summer 2020 (virtual) & Summer 2021 (overnight & in-person)

I planned, prepared, and led a week-long camp for girls to attend from my church.

Mama Mia Spotlight technician and assistant

I am assisting backstage for our high school musical this year and will be helping manage backstage and work on the spotlight.

Freestyle Academy of Communication Arts & Technology → 2020-2022 *Film and Digital Media Student*

Directing, producing, and editing films; learning Adobe programs; designing websites; practicing photography; recording audio; and writing to publish.