

Both of my parents immigrated from Russia and have raised me in a household where I was able to keep up with those traditions and language. My first language was Russian since I was raised by my parents at home as well as reading and writing from a young age. To stay connected to my culture I went to Russian Theatre where I explored different works of literature and acting in Russian. I visit Russia once every two years to check-in on the rest of my family who all still live in Russia and that has given me an opportunity to expand my perspectives and learn about everyday life in a different country. Some traditions that we keep the same as in Russia are celebrating Christmas in January, opening presents on New Years, Russian Easter, and Maslenitsa which keeps my parents and younger brother very close-knit.

I am from a suburban town in Grafton and go to a small school where the teachers and students all know each other by name. I used to go to Grafton middle school but then transferred to Nipmuc Regional High School in the neighboring town by choice, because I wanted to be in a more close-knit community compared to my old school. At my high school I focused on volleyball which has been my passion since 7th grade and also on challenging myself academically. I earned an image of respect, leadership, and determination from my peers which I value a lot. I have gone to a Russian Theatre group for most of my life where I gained some friends and learned to be more confident from playing on stage. My extended family lives all over the world, from Munich to Moscow where I am able to visit them from time to time and expand my perspectives. My Russian family is very supportive of me and my endeavors and taught me to take risks and to persevere in anything that I do. Now my aspirations are to be able to financially support myself and family as well as reach a notable position in my future career where I am making a positive change to the world.

Finance in general appeals to me because I took Economics and Statistics in high school and there were concepts that tie in with finance that interested me and made me want to learn more about it. Being able to learn about finance at MIT-Sloan would give me the opportunity to get hands-on experience and knowledge from professors such as Bob Merton and Stew Myers who made world-renown advancements in financial knowledge. MIT's extensive financial facility would also give me the resources to effectively master the science of finance and be able to apply my knowledge to the real-world.

My mom and dad are both immigrants from Russia. My dad went to Lomonosov Moscow State University and has always favored mathematics from a young age and got into this prestigious school in Russia. His accomplishments in his mathematics major gave him the opportunity to get a programming job in America where we live now. My dad's dream to go to the best school in Russia and his accomplishments inspired me to also want to learn at the best school in America and be able to become as successful and intelligent as my father. My mom went to a university in Moscow for art and worked as an art teacher for some time in Russia. She has continued pursuing her passions for art through creating multiple works of art here in America and still doing some teaching on the side. I have always been surrounded by both my father's mathematical and logical thinking and knowledge as well as my mother's more creative and expansive skills. This made me love and expand both parts of myself through learning math and also creating and appreciating the arts. My grandparents live in the countryside of Russia and

live a humble life surrounded by pastures and hours away from the nearest city. Visiting them showed me how modestly people can live and enjoy their lives; this made me appreciate and broadened my perspective on one's sense of life and what is most important to have and achieve.

I have always had a passion for volleyball, it all started for me in middle school when the JV coach scouted me out for my height and told me I would make a good blocker. Ever since then I have continued to play volleyball, from varsity to making the top club team in the best volleyball club in New England. This gave me the opportunity to get coached by the best around and play with elite players from other schools. Through volleyball I was able to make great friends and learn the value of collaboration and work on my own self-improvement. I would always look forward to going to my club and varsity practices which I would spend a lot of my time on; it gave me an outlet to express myself and have a good time doing it. A big part of volleyball were the tournaments, it was a great achievement to win alongside my teammates and receive recognition for it. A lot of my most fond and memorable memories come from being able to persevere through tough losses and winning in the end. Even now, my senior year I decided to coach and I love it; being able to share my skills and be an inspiration for younger girls is so heartwarming and encouraging for me. Volleyball is a very strategy-based game and I think that's what my favorite part about it is. Having to scope-out the opponent and skillfully get points is the best part.

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My school coach was being a negative influence on my school team. After seeing multiple girls frustrated and upset I decided to do something about it as the leader of the team for the sake of the other girls and the future of the program. I voiced my opinion and the issues that were going on with the team to my coach such as how he was being verbally abusive and impractical. Being ignored by the coach for my opinion I knew that I had to encourage and get the team on the same page myself. I decided that I needed to create a new culture on the team, so that the girls would look up to me and count on each other instead of listening to the negative remarks of

our coach. I brought this up to the administration and I was trying to work with them during the season to resolve and possibly find a better coach for the program in the future. But as this was going on, I had to figure out different approaches to each person on my team and console and motivate them to continue to persevere in our games. This turned out successfully as the whole team saw me as a leader and looked up to me during our games and practices, not taking the coaches words seriously anymore. One of our final matches in playoffs we won in a tough 5 set match and the team was unified making Nipmuc volleyball history.

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My whole life I have always had an affinity for the arts. My mom is a very good artist and exposed me to that part of myself ever since a young age. I would always draw with my mother

in my free-time and create crafts. I continued doing this throughout highschool, winning a regional contest for a realistic art piece my freshmen year; but then I got caught up in school work and haven't had a lot of time to do things like that more recently. Sometimes in order to relax I create needle felted animal figures. I got into this niche ever since the beginning of high school and do it on my off time when I want to do something for myself. After doing needle felting for so long I got really good at it and have all of the wool and needles I could ever need to create future projects. But this is just a hobby I have in addition to everything else that I do in my life and I enjoy it a lot. I think I got the skills for being creative like that from my mom, she always encouraged me to create things that I enjoy. Aside from drawing I also love theater and acting, the beauty of a good theatrical play and having to express genuine emotions on stage is always exciting and rewarding when I succeed at doing so. I have always been told I am a natural on stage and I would love to pursue something like that on the side as a hobby in my future. Getting to learn more in depth about the literature that is being acted out and the lessons that come from that is also intriguing to me. For over 6 years I also played the piano, my dad used to be a prodigy at it in Russia and bought our own little piano at home for me to learn and play on. I went to lessons for years and ever since then I have had a love for classical music and the piano. Learning how practice makes perfect and perfecting the emotions in the pieces I played was an achievement for me. Now I don't play anymore as I focused on other activities but the lessons still stayed with me; I still love going to classical orchestral concerts at the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Theatrical performances in Boston.

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I have been able to demonstrate community service and diversity through volunteering for my local Russian theatre. Even before high school started I went to this volunteer-based Russian theater where Russian literature and language were taught. I began acting in 8th grade where we put on Russian folklore stories on stage for an audience. All of the text that I had to memorize and act out was in Russian and I was able to do this with others who are like me, those who live in America and speak Russian. It was so inspiring to me to be a part of this for years, little kids who want to connect with the Russian culture would come and watch their favorite Russian stories come to life. Being a character on stage for them and interacting with them was the best part. Russian families would come to our theatrical plays and this would show little kids how important and fun the Russian culture and language is. I continued acting and in high school of my sophomore year I was able to join the adult acting group where we performed plays from Chekhov for the adult audience. The day of the events, Russian people from the greater Boston area would get together and get to enjoy our performances, creating an even tighter-knit community. The performances connected the Russian people in the area and brought the community closer together. Volunteering to help improve the communities welfare as well as connect peoples culture impacted me.

Finance in general appeals to me because I took Economics and Statistics in high school and there were concepts that tie in with finance that interested me and made me want to learn more about it. Being able to learn about finance at UPenn would give me the opportunity to get hands-on experience and knowledge from professors known for their world-renown advancements in financial knowledge. UPenn's extensive financial facility would also give me the resources to effectively master the science of finance and be able to apply my knowledge to the real-world. UPenn is also known as one of the best schools for finance in the world and it would be an honor to learn about the subject from the best out there. Personally, I decided that finance was the right path for me because I did DECA when I was an underclassmen in high school and I chose the finance path there. The types of questions and problems that I had to solve were very intriguing to me and then over time I realized that a lot of it is similar to statistics, economics, and calculus which were my favorite subjects at school. I also love psychology and there is definitely a social aspect to finance as well, being able to understand and talk to your coworkers for example is a big part of a job and I know that that would be very interesting for me. At UPenn I would be able to use the extensive financial and research facilities to learn more and maybe even focus on an independent study to focus on a specific part of it. I would also be able to meet new and diverse people on campus who would be able to widen my perspectives and teach me more about their worlds. The professors at UPenn are

also a big part of the school as they are some of the best out there and being able to be taught by them would be something to be proud of. I would love to see the professors I read about in financial and economic books to be able to teach me in person, it's an opportunity not everyone can have.

At Penn, learning and growth happen outside of the classrooms, too. How will you explore the community at Penn? Consider how this community will help shape your perspective and identity, and how your identity and perspective will help shape this community. (150-200 words)*

To explore the community at Penn I would join clubs such as community service, Russian culture, recreational volleyball, and drama. I would love to connect with the diverse community of students on campus through my personal interests to establish something in common and make friends. I would love to learn about other people's backgrounds and talents as well as their drive. Hearing about other people's experiences and how they got their would be fascinating as well as sharing my own story and skills. I come from a first-generation Russian household so I definitely have some different perspectives and values than the typical American household so being able to share that and bring some new ideas to the table would be exciting. I also know I am not the only person who grew up with a different culture and I would love to hear about other people's perspectives as well. I think that will definitely be a good way to shape my own identity in college as well as shape the rest of the community with my own perspectives. I think that everyone is unique in their own ways and we can develop our own culture on campus with a combined number of perspectives from different cultures which will be exciting.

-Volleyball, played for top club team in New England all of high school and varsity since freshman year, captain junior and senior year, earned multiple recognitions in my region and division

-Theater, acted in Russian theatrical plays on stage throughout high school, learned to articulate clearly and act

-Artistic, I am good at creating works of art and projects such as needle felting, painting, and drawing

-Organization, categorizing and staying on top of work is a good skill that I possess

-Leadership, through creating projects and volleyball I have become a good leader that others trust

-Empathy, I am a very kind person and I can understand and help others around me in a quality way

-Responsibility, any task that I am presented with I can carry out and let others count on me

-Passion, in anything that I do I always put in a lot of effort and go above and beyond what is expected of me, I commit to what I do

In high school varsity volleyball I was able to surround myself with a great community of people as well as achieve and be able to improve myself physically and mentally. Volleyball has always been very important to me as I played for the top club team in New England and was on varsity all four years of high school as a starter. Since I made the varsity team as a freshman I had a lot of experience with the team and was able to become a real leader as an upperclassman. I had a lot of responsibility senior year by having to motivate and be the glue for the team on the court. I became an inspiration and motivator for those younger than me on the team as the captain. I always gave it my all on the court, focusing on the dynamic of the team and resolving any issues that came up between the players and coaches. I was able to not only achieve and excel personally, but also improve and inspire the team enough to go the farthest that Nipmuc volleyball has gone before in a season. I was also able to break the 450 kill record for the school for the first time in Nipmuc history. Throughout my years at Nipmuc I was also always nominated for dual-valley all-star and similar rewards which shows how committed I am to the sport. My senior year I also ran all of the captains practices on my own and was able to train and mentor the girls before tryouts and establish a connection. A recent significant experience that wrapped up the season for me is how we won against our main rival - BVT during playoffs. Going into the game not many teammates were hopeful that we would win and just wanted to get it over with. But I was able to influence and encourage the team with my personal approaches to each person and team; by giving a motivational talk to go on, and win against BVT. We ended up fighting for 5 sets and we won in the end. It was so nice to see how being present and regulating what was going on on the court paid off. This includes the mood of each player and how everyone was playing in the game. My senior season, my high school volleyball coach was also being a negative influence on the rest of the team. This was an issue I knew I had to resolve to better the team. After seeing multiple girls frustrated and upset I decided to do something about it, as the leader of the team for the sake of the other girls and the future of the program. I voiced my opinion and the issues that were going on with the team to my coach such as how he was being verbally abusive and impractical. Being ignored by the coach for my opinion I knew that I had to encourage and get the team on the same page myself. I decided that I needed to create a new culture on the team, so that the girls would look up to me and count on each other instead of listening to the negative remarks of our coach. I brought this up to the administration and I was trying to work with them during the season to resolve and possibly find a better coach for the program in the future. But as this was going on, I had to figure out different approaches to each person on my team and console and motivate them to continue to persevere in our games. This turned out successfully as the whole team saw me as a leader and looked up to me during our games and practices, not taking the coaches words seriously anymore. One of our final matches in the playoffs

we won in a tough 5 set match and the team was unified making Nipmuc volleyball history.

I imagine my time and experience at UT Austin would be able to give me the right opportunities to have an impact on society by preparing me with its challenging curriculum and the connections that I can form there. The First-Year Signature Course that all freshmen are expected to participate in would be able to further my skills in academic discussion and analyze issues which I could then further look into and find my passion. UT is also a research university which means I will be able to delve deep into my major and understand the ins and outs of any societal issues and how I can improve them. Internships and networking that are available at UT would also jump-start my career and give me an opportunity to learn and be able to help the community after I graduate with my career. The various volunteering opportunities at UT will also give me the chance to help others and be able to join a community where I can change the world. The large campus and the diversity of people will also continue to expand my perspective and knowledge of those around me which will prepare me to be able to transform the lives and understand others around me. The student pride and culture will also continue to improve my sense of community and will prepare me to seek something similar after college which will help change society in a significant way. I would like to be able to start a project during my time at UT which would be based on helping society in some way and the resources that I will be able to use will help me do just that.

During the peak of COVID I felt like everything was out of my control, being in a constant fear of getting sick and worrying about what is going to happen to the rest of the world is exhausting. All extracurricular activities like volleyball, theatre, and volunteering had to be stopped which caused me to have a lot of extra time after online school and I was able to figure out more about myself. I started cooking more and doing crafts to see what I liked personally as well as exploring new skills for a potential career. I started working on myself at home during quarantine like working out and eating healthy which impacted my view on what kind of lifestyle I want to have. It empowered me to become stronger for volleyball and to feel good. When quarantine began and we had school over zoom it caused school to be difficult and unmotivating. I had to learn to not equate number grades to my intelligence and knowledge - which was a big step for me. It made me realize being obsessed with what number is on my report card just causes more anxiety and stress than it should.

COVID hit when I was in my sophomore year of high school, at first I thought nothing of it but it ended up changing me as a person. At first it seemed nice because I had two weeks off of school but after a couple of weeks, I became worried because it seemed like my parents and the government couldn't do anything about the situation. I felt like everything was out of my control, being in a constant fear of getting sick and worrying about what is going to happen to the rest of the world is exhausting. All extracurricular activities like volleyball, theatre, and volunteering had to be stopped which caused me to have a lot of extra time after online school and I was able to figure out more about myself. I started cooking more and doing crafts to see what I liked personally as well as exploring new skills for a potential career. I started working on myself at home during quarantine like working out and eating healthy which impacted my view on what kind of lifestyle I want to have. It empowered me to become stronger for volleyball and to feel good. When quarantine began and we had school over zoom it caused school to be difficult and unmotivating. I

had to learn to not equate number grades to my intelligence and knowledge - which was a big step for me. Those are the type of discoveries and realizations I had during COVID.

September of my junior year my younger brother got into a very serious car crash and that effected my life a lot during that period of time as I had to help him cope and spend more time with my family outside of school which effected my work and mental state. Beginning of my senior year I also started focusing more on my mental health and got diagnosed for GAD and began my journey to find the right medication which has a lot of side effects and effected my ability to do work to the best of my ability.

Going to Boston University means being a part of the diverse community and a rich culture on campus. First of all, the location is perfect, being on the edge of the city and still close to home. Those at Boston University are versatile and have many different interests and talents which I think I would fit into. Current students are deemed intelligent as well as social which is exactly what I would like to be a part of. Not only that, but those attending BU get a lot of services opportunities such as the First-Year Student Outreach Project which I am excited to be a part of and help the community. The networking and connections that I can make at BU are also a significant part of college that I am looking forward to.

Kilachand's unique curriculum would give me the chance to further academically challenge myself in college. The close-knit community and culture of other intelligent and determined students at the honors college would motivate and inspire me throughout my education. Being able to be recognized and be a part of the college would further my commitment as I will have more opportunities to learn and excel. The co-curricular events would give me the opportunity to further research my major and fully immerse myself in the material. The collaboration and problem-solving skills that I could attain would help me be a better student and increase my skillset for careers after graduating. The accommodations for honors college students are also very appealing, being able to have small class sizes will strengthen the mastery of information as well as make the projects worked on more personable and meaningful. Living together with the other honors students will also give me the opportunity to meet peers who are as driven as me in their education. Since I can confidently say I have good time-management skills, being able to dedicate and work on the Kilachand courses along with the normal major requirements will be a priority for me and a good way for me to strengthen my skillset. I would love to have the chance to learn about contemporary issues throughout the multidisciplinary program at Kilchand alongside my major because this will make me even more of a versatile person and give me the opportunity to lead on campus.

We know you lead a busy life, full of activities, many of which are required of you. Tell us about something you do for the pleasure of it.*

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by the best around and play with elite players from other schools. Through volleyball I was able to make great friends and learn the value of collaboration and work on my own self-improvement. I would always look forward to going to my club and varsity practices which I would spend a lot of my time on; it gave me an outlet to express myself and have a good time doing it. A big part of volleyball were the tournaments, it was a great achievement to win alongside my teammates and receive recognition for it. A lot of my most fond and memorable memories come from being able to persevere through tough losses and winning in the end. Even now, my senior year I decided to coach and I love it; being able to share my skills and be an inspiration for younger girls is so heartwarming and encouraging for me. Volleyball is a very strategy-based game and I think that's what my favorite part about it is. Having to scope-out the opponent and skillfully get points is the best part.

At MIT, we bring people together to better the lives of others. MIT students work to improve their communities in different ways, from tackling the world's biggest challenges to being a good friend. Describe one way in which you have contributed to your community, whether in your family, the classroom, your neighborhood, etc.*

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Tell us about a significant challenge you've faced or something that didn't go according to plan that you feel comfortable sharing. How did you manage the situation?*

My school coach was being a negative influence on my school team. After seeing multiple girls frustrated and upset I decided to do something about it as the leader of the team for the sake of the other girls and the future of the program. I voiced my opinion and the issues that were going on with the team to my coach such as how he was being verbally abusive and impractical. Being ignored by the coach for my opinion I knew that I had to encourage and get the team on the same page myself. I decided that I needed to create a new culture on the team, so that the girls would look up to me and count on each other instead of listening to the negative remarks of our coach. I brought this up to the administration and I was trying to work with them during the season to resolve and possibly find a better coach for the program in the future. But as this was going on, I had to figure out different approaches to each person on my team and console and motivate them to continue to persevere in our games. This turned out successfully as the whole team saw me as a leader and looked up to me during our games and practices, not taking the coaches words seriously anymore. One of our final matches in the playoffs we won in a tough 5 set match and the team was unified making Nipmuc volleyball history.

Writing about the arts**

Volleyball game

Theater

No application can meet the needs of every individual. If you think that additional information or material will give us a more thorough impression of you, please include it here.

My whole life I have always had an affinity for the arts. My mom is a very good artist and exposed me to that part of myself ever since a young age. I would always draw with my mother in my free-time and create crafts. I continued doing this throughout highschool, winning a regional contest for a realistic art piece my freshmen year; but then I got caught up in school work and haven't had a lot of time to do things like that more recently. Sometimes in order to relax I create needle felted animal figures. I got into this niche ever since the beginning of high school and do it on my off time when I want to do something for myself. After doing needle felting for so long I got really good at it and have all of the wool and needles I could ever need to create future projects. But this is just a hobby I have in addition to everything else that I do in my life and I enjoy it a lot. I think I got the skills for being creative like that from my mom, she always encouraged me to create things that I enjoy. Aside from drawing I also love theater and acting, the beauty of a good theatrical play and having to express genuine emotions on stage is always exciting and rewarding when I succeed at doing so. I have always been told I am

a natural on stage and I would love to pursue something like that on the side as a hobby in my future. Getting to learn more in depth about the literature that is being acted out and the lessons that come from that is also intriguing to me. For over 6 years I also played the piano, my dad used to be a prodigy at it in Russia and bought our own little piano at home for me to learn and play on. I went to lessons for years and ever since then I have had a love for classical music and the piano. Learning how practice makes perfect and perfecting the emotions in the pieces I played was an achievement for me. Now I don't play anymore as I focused on other activities but the lessons still stayed with me; I still love going to classical orchestral concerts at the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Theatrical performances in Boston.

Boston College: Students at Boston College are encouraged to consider critical questions as they pursue lives of meaning and purpose. What is a question that matters to you and how do you hope Boston College will help you answer it?

What am I destined to do with my career? If I am accepted into Boston College I would be able to get a unique skill set and acquire knowledge about finance and its real world applications. After getting my bachelors at Boston College I would like to know what I am meant to do with such a degree and background at my future job, or what new research I can accomplish. Boston College's great financial program would let me be prepared for just that, with it's notable professors and campus. I would be taught exactly what I need to know to be able to make a change and do well professionally after college. Throughout college I also hope that Boston College would be the place to help me determine what specific niche or area of study in finance I want to pursue in the field. What specifically interests me in finance and how I can continue learning and working on it after I graduate is what most interests me and the first question I am trying to answer when I go to Boston College.

Brown's Open Curriculum allows students to explore broadly while also diving deeply into their academic pursuits. Tell us about any academic interests that excite you, and how you might use the Open Curriculum to pursue them while also embracing topics with which you are unfamiliar. (200-250 words)*

I am interested in mathematics because I have always enjoyed this subject. Problem solving and logical thinking have always been my strongest qualities and I feel like pursuing a major where I can exemplify just that can be very useful for me. A mathematics major would also provide me with enough knowledge and background to then go into a wide variety of careers such as finance, accounting, business analysis, or even statistician. The versatility of mathematics is also very appealing to me, math is found in our everyday lives such as having to pay for something, observing the angle at which something is moving, or even how high I throw a ball. My father also took mathematics as his major in college and from a young age he was able to show me how useful and important math is which made me want to learn more about the subject beyond high school. I

have always challenged myself in math and excelled in all of my classes, taking the hardest ones available. This showed me that I can definitely make this my life passion and base my career around math. I would always be recognized for my talent in math and being able to grasp hard concepts quickly, always helping my peers and being able to explain each topic clearly after learning it.

I have always had a passion for volleyball, it all started for me in middle school when the jv coach scouted me out for my height and told me I would make a good blocker. Ever since then I have continued to play volleyball, from varsity to making the top club team in the best volleyball club in New England. This gave me the opportunity to get coached by the best around and play with elite players from other schools. Through volleyball I was able to make great friends and learn the value of collaboration and work on my own self-improvement. I would always look forward to going to my club and varsity practices which I would spend a lot of my time on; it gave me an outlet to express myself and have a good time doing it. A big part of volleyball were the tournaments, it was a great achievement to win alongside my teammates and receive recognition for it. A lot of my most fond and memorable memories come from being able to persevere through tough losses and winning in the end. Even now, my senior year I decided to coach and I love it; being able to share my skills and be an inspiration for younger girls is so heartwarming and encouraging for me. Volleyball is a very strategy-based game and I think that's what my favorite part about it is. Having to scope-out the opponent and skillfully get points is the best part.

Finance in general appeals to me because I took Economics and Statistics in high school and there were concepts that tie in with finance that interested me and made me want to learn more about it. Being able to learn about finance at Boston College would give me the opportunity to get hands-on experience and knowledge from professors with their acquired financial knowledge. The Open Curriculum allows students to delve into different subjects while also focusing on their intended major and I think this is very wise and will give me the resources to become a versatile student. I would be able to learn about finance while also choosing to learn more about the sciences, humanities, and social sciences. Personally I would like to learn more about psychology, economics, statistics, and mathematics because these subjects always appealed to me the most in high school. Being able to learn more about other subjects will give me a better perspective of what I want to pursue in my future and open my mind up to more ideas as well as expand my knowledge. I think that is exactly the thing that every student should be focusing on in college, and Boston College would give me the opportunity to do it.

Brown's culture fosters a community in which students challenge the ideas of others and have their ideas challenged in return, promoting a deeper and clearer understanding of the complex issues confronting society. This active engagement in dialogue is as present outside the classroom as it is in academic spaces. Tell us about a time you were challenged by a perspective that differed from your own. How did you respond? (200-250 words)*

In the past I have been challenged in the perspective of people basing stereotypes about Russian people and telling me how they think they are true. Obviously I myself am

Russian and stereotypes such as how all Russian people drink and have pet bears amused me. In these kinds of situations I would just calmly state my own perspective, giving details and counterarguments to what opinions they have to say. I don't expect someone to fully agree with me on these kinds of things since everyone is biased in their own way, but at least start to question if their perspective is the only or right one. I would tell them how kind and friendly Russian people really are, and how not everyone is an alcoholic and no one really owns bears. Everyone around the world is actually really the same, just adapting to live in their own economic environments, countries, and governments. I respect if someone has a different perspective than me and in this case I would hear them out but question where they acquired such a perspective, from propaganda, the news, or word of mouth. It is very intriguing to me how people form opinions and how easily they can believe what is actually a lie.

Carnegie: Most students choose their intended major or area of study based on a passion or inspiration that's developed over time – what passion or inspiration led you to choose this area of study?

Finance has always appealed to me because I took Economics and Statistics in high school and there were concepts that tie in with finance that interested me and made me want to learn more about it. Being able to learn about finance at Carnegie Mellon would give me the opportunity to get hands-on experience and knowledge from notable professors there. Personally, I decided that finance was the right path for me because I did DECA when I was an underclassmen in high school and I chose the finance path there. The types of questions and problems that I had to solve were very intriguing to me and then over time I realized that a lot of it is similar to statistics, economics, and calculus which were my favorite subjects at school. I also love psychology and there is definitely a social aspect to finance as well, being able to understand and talk to your coworkers for example is a big part of a job and I know that that would be very interesting for me.

Carnegie: Many students pursue college for a specific degree, career opportunity or personal goal. Whichever it may be, learning will be critical to achieve your ultimate goal. As you think ahead to the process of learning during your college years, how will you define a successful college experience?

For me, a successful college experience will depend on if I am able to get a stable job after graduation, I have decided what specific career path I want to take in life, and if I have a better idea of what I want to do with my job to stand out and make a change in the environment around me. I would also like to feel like I know the ins and outs of finance by the education that I receive from my professors in college and the type of networking and people I meet there as well. If I am able to start a research project for example in college and continue it after graduation, I would definitely see that as a

successful college experience as I was able to find something I was passionate about and be able to pursue it outside of school.

Carnegie: Consider your application as a whole. What do you personally want to emphasize about your application for the admission committee's consideration? Highlight something that's important to you or something you haven't had a chance to share. Tell us, don't show us (no websites please).

(300 word maximum)*

My mom and dad are both immigrants from Russia. My dad went to Lomonosov Moscow State University and has always favored mathematics from a young age and got into this prestigious school in Russia. His accomplishments in his mathematics major gave him the opportunity to get a programming job in America where we live now. My dad's dream to go to the best school in Russia and his accomplishments inspired me to also want to learn at the best school in America and be able to become as successful and intelligent as my father. My mom went to a university in Moscow for art and worked as an art teacher for some time in Russia. She has continued pursuing her passions for art through creating multiple works of art here in America and still doing some teaching on the side. I have always been surrounded by both my father's mathematical and logical thinking and knowledge as well as my mother's more creative and expansive skills. This made me love and expand both parts of myself through learning math and also creating and appreciating the arts. My grandparents live in the countryside of Russia and live a humble life surrounded by pastures and hours away from the nearest city. Visiting them showed me how modestly people can live and enjoy their lives; this made me appreciate and broadened my perspective on one's sense of life and what is most important to have and achieve.

Cornell: Students in Arts and Sciences embrace the opportunity to delve into multifaceted academic interests, embodying in 21st century terms Ezra Cornell's "any person...any study" founding vision. Tell us about the areas of study you are excited to explore, and specifically why you wish to pursue them in our College.*

Economics always appealed to me because I took macroeconomics, microeconomics, and statistics in high school and there were concepts that tie in with economics as a whole that interested me and made me want to learn more about it. Being able to learn about economics at Cornell would give me the opportunity to get hands-on experience and knowledge from notable professors there. Personally, I decided that economics is the right path for me because economics has a lot to do with the social and psychological aspect of why people and markets do the things that they do; as well as the mathematical aspect of how to figure out how to analyze these patterns. Both math (such as calculus) and psychology were some of my favorite subjects in high school and I think economics is a great combination of the two and would give me the chance to further pursue and learn about something that peaks my interest. I also know

that economics is a very male dominant subject and I hope that Cornell would be the perfect place for me to be able to prove myself and bring some more female representation to this major at the school. Cornell is also notable for economics as it is in the top 5% for economics in the country and I would love to learn from the best out there about the subject and be able to gain knowledge and experience including being able to use the vast opportunities at Cornell such as its renown facilities and campus to learn.

Dartmouth: While arguing a Dartmouth-related case before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1818, Daniel Webster, Class of 1801, delivered this memorable line: "It is, sir,...a small college, and yet there are those who love it!" As you seek admission to the Class of 2026, what aspects of the College's program, community, or campus environment attract your interest?*(100)

With being known as a small school (compared to the rest of the Ivies) this means that the campus has a close-knit culture and there is more emphasis on the undergraduates of the school. I come from a very small school made up of only 170 kids in my grade, I find that when there is a smaller amount of people in classes and on campus everyone gets to know each other as well as the teachers/professors much better which would give me a better college experience and help me better my knowledge of my major. The rural location of Dartmouth just adds to the sense of community, closeness, and pride of the school. I am also excited about the seminar that all first-years have to participate where each student is able to do their own independent research and a small group discussion about their topic of choice.

With being known as a small school (compared to the rest of the Ivies) this means that the campus has a close-knit culture and there is more emphasis on the undergraduates of the school. The rural location of Dartmouth just adds to the sense of community, closeness, and pride of the school. Coming from a small school myself, this is something that I value a lot. I am also excited about the seminar that all first-years have to participate where each student is able to do their own independent research and a small group discussion about their topic of choice.

Dartmouth: What excites you?
(250-300)

I have always had a passion for volleyball, it all started for me in middle school when the jv coach scouted me out for my height and told me I would make a good blocker. Ever since then I have continued to play volleyball, from varsity to making the top club team in the best volleyball club in New England. This gave me the opportunity to get coached by the best around and play with elite players from other schools. Through volleyball I was able to make great friends and learn the value of collaboration and work on my own self-improvement. I would always look forward to going to my club and varsity practices which I would spend a lot of my time on; it gave me an outlet to express myself and have a good time doing it. A big part of volleyball were the tournaments, it was a great achievement to win alongside my teammates and receive

recognition for it. A lot of my most fond and memorable memories come from being able to persevere through tough losses and winning in the end. Even now, my senior year I decided to coach and I love it; being able to share my skills and be an inspiration for younger girls is so heartwarming and encouraging for me. Volleyball is a very strategy-based game and I think that's what my favorite part about it is. Having to scope-out the opponent and skillfully get points is the best part.

Tufts: Which aspects of the Tufts undergraduate experience prompt your application? In short, 'Why Tufts?'

Tufts: How have the environments or experiences of your upbringing – your family, home, neighborhood, or community – shaped the person you are today?

My mom and dad are both immigrants from Russia. My dad went to Lomonosov Moscow State University and has always favored mathematics from a young age and got into this prestigious school in Russia. His accomplishments in his mathematics major gave him the opportunity to get a programming job in America where we live now. My dad's dream to go to the best school in Russia and his accomplishments inspired me to also want to learn at the best school in America and be able to become as successful and intelligent as my father. My mom went to a university in Moscow for art and worked as an art teacher for some time in Russia. She has continued pursuing her passions for art through creating multiple works of art here in America and still doing some teaching on the side. I have always been surrounded by both my fathers mathematical and logical thinking and knowledge as well as my mom's more creative and expansive skills. This made me love and expand both parts of myself through learning math and also creating and appreciating the arts. My grandparents live in the countryside of Russia and live a humble life surrounded by pastures and hours away from the nearest city. Visiting them showed me how modestly people can live and enjoy their lives; this made me appreciate and broadened my perspective on one's sense of life and what is most important to have and achieve.

Michigan: Essay #1 (Required for all applicants.)

Everyone belongs to many different communities and/or groups defined by (among other things) shared geography, religion, ethnicity, income, cuisine, interest, race, ideology, or intellectual heritage. Choose one of the communities to which you belong, and describe that community and your place within it. *

Michigan: Essay #2 (Required for all applicants.)

Describe the unique qualities that attract you to the specific undergraduate College or School (including preferred admission and dual degree programs) to which you are applying at the University of Michigan. How would that curriculum support your interests?*

My whole life I have always had an affinity for the arts. My mom is a very good artist and exposed me to that part of myself ever since a young age. I would always draw with my mother

in my free-time and create crafts. I continued doing this throughout highschool, winning a regional contest for a realistic art piece my freshmen year; but then I got caught up in school work and haven't had a lot of time to do things like that more recently. Sometimes in order to relax I create needle felted animal figures. I got into this niche ever since the beginning of high school and do it on my off time when I want to do something for myself. After doing needle felting for so long I got really good at it and have all of the wool and needles I could ever need to create future projects. But this is just a hobby I have in addition to everything else that I do in my life and I enjoy it a lot. I think I got the skills for being creative like that from my mom, she always encouraged me to create things that I enjoy. Aside from drawing I also love theater and acting, the beauty of a good theatrical play and having to express genuine emotions on stage is always exciting and rewarding when I succeed at doing so. I have always been told I am a natural on stage and I would love to pursue something like that on the side as a hobby in my future. Getting to learn more in depth about the literature that is being acted out and the lessons that come from that is also intriguing to me. For over 6 years I also played the piano, my dad used to be a prodigy at it in Russia and bought our own little piano at home for me to learn and play on. I went to lessons for years and ever since then I have had a love for classical music and the piano. Learning how practice makes perfect and perfecting the emotions in the pieces I played was an achievement for me. Now I don't play anymore as I focused on other activities but the lessons still stayed with me; I still love going to classical orchestral concerts at the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Theatrical performances in Boston.

Which aspects of the Tufts undergraduate experience prompt your application? In short, 'Why Tufts?' (100-150 words)*

How have the environments or experiences of your upbringing – your family, home, neighborhood, or community – shaped the person you are today?*

My mom and dad are both immigrants from Russia. My dad went to Lomonosov Moscow State University and has always favored mathematics from a young age and got into this prestigious school in Russia. His accomplishments in his mathematics major gave him the opportunity to get a programming job in America where we live now. My dad's dream to go to the best school in Russia and his accomplishments inspired me to also want to learn at the best school in America and be able to become as successful and intelligent as my father. My mom went to a university in Moscow for art and worked as an art teacher for some time in Russia. She has continued pursuing her passions for art through creating multiple works of art here in America and still doing some teaching on the side. I have always been surrounded by both my fathers mathematical and logical thinking and knowledge as well as my mom's more creative and expansive skills. This made me love and expand both parts of myself through learning math and also creating and appreciating the arts. My grandparents live in the countryside of Russia and live a humble life surrounded by pastures and hours away from the nearest city. Visiting them showed me how modestly people can live and enjoy their lives; this made me appreciate and

broadened my perspective on one's sense of life and what is most important to have and achieve.

Considering the specific undergraduate school you have selected, how will you explore your academic and intellectual interests at the University of Pennsylvania? For students applying to the coordinated dual-degree and specialized programs, please answer these questions in regard to your single-degree school choice; your interest in the coordinated dual-degree or specialized program may be addressed through the program-specific essay. (300-450 words)*

At Penn, learning and growth happen outside of the classrooms, too. How will you explore the community at Penn? Consider how this community will help shape your perspective and identity, and how your identity and perspective will help shape this community. (150-200 words)*

Economics always appealed to me because I took macroeconomics, microeconomics, and statistics in high school and there were concepts that tie in with economics as a whole that interested me and made me want to learn more about it. Personally, I decided that economics is the right path for me because economics has a lot to do with the social and psychological aspect of why people and markets do the things that they do; as well as the mathematical aspect of how to figure out how to analyze these patterns. Both calculus and psychology were some of my favorite subjects in high school and I think economics is a great combination of the two and something that peaks my interest.

Finance has always appealed to me because I took Economics and Statistics in high school and there were concepts that tie in with finance that interested me and made me want to learn more about it. Being able to learn about finance at WashU would give me the opportunity to get hands-on experience and knowledge from notable professors there. Economics always appealed to me as well because I took macroeconomics, microeconomics, and statistics in high school and there were concepts that tie in with economics as a whole that interested me and made me want to learn more about it. I like economics because it has a lot to do with the social and psychological aspect of why people and markets do the things that they do; as well as the mathematical aspect of how to figure out how to analyze these patterns. Both calculus and psychology were some of my favorite subjects in high school and I think economics as well as finance are a great combination of the two and something that peaks my interest.

LATER: (UMichigan)

Essay #1 (Required for all applicants.)

Everyone belongs to many different communities and/or groups defined by (among other things) shared geography, religion, ethnicity, income, cuisine, interest, race, ideology, or intellectual heritage. Choose one of the communities to which you belong, and describe that community and your place within it. *

My mom and dad are both Russian immigrants which makes me really connected to the Russian culture.

Essay #2 (Required for all applicants.)

Describe the unique qualities that attract you to the specific undergraduate College or School (including preferred admission and dual degree programs) to which you are applying at the University of Michigan. How would that curriculum support your interests?*