



Dear Selection Committee,

I would like to be considered for a 'Superstars of STEM' scholarship.

I am currently supported by a National Heart Foundation Fellowship ending August 2021. While my University is strongly supportive of my career and committed to keep me for one more year beyond that, I would only be paid at 50% full time equivalent. Meanwhile, the revenue of my husband's company, Aloha Travel Group Pty Ltd, has dropped more than 90% due to the COVID 19 pandemic, and he is currently supported by 'Job Keeper'. Whilst he is looking for other opportunities, having a 15-month old without a local family support network is proving challenging in that respect. Although making every effort to ensure secure employment, including me applying strategically to numerous research grants and fellowships, we are at risk of facing significant financial challenges in 2021-2022. Thus, it would be highly appreciated if I could get a scholarship to support the costs of this program.

Born and raised in mainland China, I grew up speaking mandarin. Being a non-native English speaker, it usually takes me longer than most of my peers to prepare for media interviews and public engagement activities, and I still have trouble mastering subtlety of language. However, I do not let it stop me and am very committed to participate in public engagement to increase the visibility of women in engineering and encourage more women of colour to 'play big'. I would love to participate in this program that would not only give me more opportunities but also greatly improve my skills to effectively deliver my message with influence and impact.

I appreciate your consideration!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jiawen Li".

*Jiawen Li. Ph.D.*

*Heart Foundation Fellow*

*2019 Australian Optical Society Geoff Opat Early Career Researcher Prize Winner*

*2019 South Australia Women in Innovation (Engineering) Award Winner*

*Institute for Photonics and Advanced Sensing (IPAS)*

*Centre for Nanoscale BioPhotonics (CNBP)*

*University of Adelaide*