

Cambridge Trust statement

My chemistry teacher once commented wittily that no one had ever told nature that humans had divided her into different scientific fields, like physics, chemistry and biology. I believe that this interdisciplinary approach made me truly passionate about neuroscience, as the complexity of the nervous system allows me to take advantage of my wide range of interests in mathematics and psychology. However, I also realised that this open-mindedness in science required proper education and training in different techniques. I believe that there is no better place to acquire this training than the University of Cambridge, however, as an international student, I will need full funding for my studies in the UK since my parents who work in healthcare in Hungary cannot afford all the expenses.

The current pandemic has taught us that science is not a mere “l’art pour l’art” hobby, but a duty to improve the lives of millions of people around the globe. It is this global perspective which would make me feel especially honoured to gain the prestigious Cambridge International Scholarship and/or the Cambridge Trust Scholarship for Postgraduate Students.

My integrated master’s degree in neuroscience at University College London (UCL) gave me unprecedented support for my aspirations. Owing to the high-quality education at UCL, I mastered my skills in scientific writing, statistical analysis and experimental design. I also strengthened my quantitative background and programming abilities in Python, which is essential for my career, since the applications of mathematics and computer science in neurobiology are becoming increasingly inevitable. Remarkably, my academic excellence was recognised by the prestigious Sessional Prizes for the Best 2nd Year Neuroscience Performance in 2018-19 as well as the Best 3rd Year Neuroscience MSci Performance in 2019-20. I was also awarded the Burnstock Prize for the best academic performance in my cohort and gained a position on the Dean’s List of top performing students.

Acting on my desire to obtain hands-on research experience of one of the “hot topics” of cognitive neuroscience, I completed a two-month internship project in Professor Kate Jeffery’s laboratory in 2019 to learn more about the cognitive map, i.e. the brain’s internal representation of the outside world. This internship was a remarkable opportunity, and, importantly, I became incredibly independent. I am currently in the process of conducting my master’s level research in Professor Michael Häusser’s laboratory to interrogate reward-related sensory signals in the mouse cerebellum using two-photon microscopy.

In summary, the financial support provided by the Cambridge Trust would be an important milestone in my journey toward becoming an ambitious, innovative and socially conscious explorer in the neuroscientific field.