

Ziyu Cui

**Graduation Year:** Junior

**College:** Business

**Major(s):** Finance; Film Television and Theater

**Minors(s):** n/a

**Scholar Group Membership:** Greater China Scholars

**Did you received other funding for this project?:** no

**Could you have completed this project without CUSE funding?** No

**More details on CUSE funding assistance?**

**Project Title:** Short Documentary Film: The Return of Hanfu

**Project Location:** China, USA, Romania

**ND Faculty Mentor:** Nicole MacLaughlin

**Project Type:** Creative Endeavor

**Why did you undertake this project/experience?** Deepen your knowledge of a topic or issue, Career discernment and/or preparation, Internationalize your Notre Dame experience

**Did your funded experience help you:**

**[Deepen your understanding of your coursework or field of study]:** Very Much

**[Discern your interests and post-bac goals]:** Very Much

**[Become confident in your ability to set and achieve your goals]:** Very Much

**[Gain a more nuanced view of local, national, or global communities]:** Very Much

**[Improve your written and verbal communications skills]:**Very Much

**Tell us about your experience.**

My creative endeavor aims to discuss the return of Hanfu, the long lost traditional Han Chinese costume and to raise people's awareness of ethnic identity. I visited different groups of people and individuals around the world to collect their stories about who they are and where they came from. Looking at Hanfu specifically, I tried to show different opinions on its return and to discuss its impact on both individuals and the society. I started off my project with interviews. Talking to a diverse group of people --- Chinese and non-Chinese, atheists and Buddhist, man and women--- I was amazed by how our thoughts on identity differ but also resonate.

**Describe the impact this project had, both on you as a student-scholar and on the people you worked with.**

This project exposed me to many mindsets, lifestyles and values which I was never familiar with. I met people of different backgrounds and the experience with them drastically opens up my mind. I think deeper but also broader about my topic. Among those whom I worked with, many has never seriously thought about what ethnic identity means or why does it matter. My project encouraged

them to look back at the history of their own and reflect on the simple yet complicated question "Who am I?"

**Describe how this experience is connected to your plans as a student or future professional.**

Looking to build a career path in the film industry and eventually become a filmmaker, this project gives me opportunities to have tons of hands-on experience with filmmaking. It is a highly independent work and helped me understand my strengths and weaknesses, my interests and passion and revealed many different directions where I could go in the future. I faced a lot of difficulties during the process, which gave me a realistic understanding of filmmaking being a tough yet inspiring task.

**What advice would you give other students who are planning to pursue similar projects?**

It is important to be very well-prepared before someone pursue similar projects. Creative endeavors like documentary films requires detailed planning. Talk to as many people as you can because sometimes those whom you don't think could help can give you inspiration and encouragement no one else could. More importantly, don't hesitate, especially in filmmaking. When you have an idea it is always better to carry it out and revise it later then to worry too much and eventually do nothing.

I acknowledge that this form has been filled out truthfully and to the best of my ability. I understand that this information will be shared with many different CUSE constituencies. As such, I have provided as much useful information as I was able. I understand that CUSE will not complete my award disbursement until this form is successfully completed. If I have any questions or concerns, I will contact CUSE before submitting this form. To illustrate that you understand all of these points, please enter your Notre Dame email in the box below.  
zcui@nd.edu

