

I don't think people can learn how to do and make things from just hearing someone talk; I know that I can only truly learn through accumulating experience. In a classroom, that means learning by making something new, not simply taking notes on principles or theories. Touring the Interactive Media Arts program at NYU this fall, I saw a fusion of energy, knowledge, tools, experience, and collaboration nurturing this sort of creation that permeated the space. I saw not just standard homework assignments, but people making, using everything from the woodshop to virtual reality to microelectronics prototyping to give form to their projects.

Based on the last century, life in the next remains entirely unimaginable, and I deeply care about being a part of building that future. New York City, long a center of culture and innovation, fosters an unparalleled creativity in technology and design. Manhattan's concentration of creative energy, people, resources, and excitement forms the perfect environment for someone like me to learn, connect, and work with new people. I want to live, work, and grow in that space, where, unlike my high school in central Pennsylvania, the passionate creator is not the odd one out.

One of the few places I experience a similar kind of energy is at hackathons. Typically lasting 24–48 hours, hackathons are making festivals and competitions for student programmers. These events stand out as hubs of creativity and building for high school and college students. Staying up most of the night, frantically designing, coding, engineering with friends or strangers on a team: right from the start, hackathons embody an attitude towards the world's problems as fixable, working from the assumption that anyone and everyone should therefore get started on fixing them. In such an environment, we bond with new people, learning and teaching simultaneously, while creating continuously.

NYU's campus, and its position in New York City, stands as an extraordinary articulation of this vision of the ideal learning environment. The reputation as "the

campus that never sleeps” combined with my observations from touring the campus truly resonated with me. NYU Early Decision seems obvious for me because no other university demonstrates such a cohesive, compelling, and uncompromising narrative of making, one closely aligning with my own philosophy. The experience NYU proposes, one with a lasting, multiplicative effect on my life’s work, calls me.