



NAME: Flora Li
@ UW ENG SINCE: 1997

Flora Li is a busy and industrious electrical engineering student who is completing her fourth year of PhD studies at Waterloo. Li was originally attracted to UW because of its world-renowned undergraduate engineering program. She is grateful for her co-op work terms which provided her with a deeper understanding of the theories taught in the classroom. She is a member of the Giga-to-Nano research group in Electrical and Computer Engineering and considers herself fortunate to have had so many remarkable experiences as a UW student. For example, as part of her master's research, she has the unique opportunity to obtain industrial work experience developing digital image sensors.

What do you like best about UW?

UW is an incredibly supportive and encouraging environment in which to conduct research. My supervisor, Arokia Nathan, has been an excellent role model and a constant source of inspiration. His suggestion that I research plastic electronics caught my attention because of the growing need for systems that are lightweight, unbreakable, and mechanically flexible. Imagine a digital display that can be rolled up and put into your pocket or a flatscreen TV that spans the length of your wall!

How did the scholarships you received help you?

Funding from UW has been an important part of my education and has enabled me to concentrate on my studies. I was absolutely thrilled and honoured to receive the Carl Pollock Graduate Student Fellowship in 2006 because it came at a time when I was running out of scholarship options. Unfortunately, many students forgo postgraduate studies simply because of financial limitations, so it's critical that the university can provide funding for students who demonstrate scholarly potential.

What do you enjoy in your spare time?

In addition to my passion for scientific research and technological advancement, my other main passion is fitness. I am a certified fitness instructor and have taught fitness classes on campus and at GoodLife Fitness clubs. I dream that one day I will have the opportunity to travel the world, complete a long-distance bike tour, and practice yoga at the top of a mountain.