



Macaulay Honors College
The City University of New York
35 West 67th Street New York, NY 10023

Contact Info:
Sheila Stainback, 212-729-2924
sheila.stainback@mhc.cuny.edu

Macaulay Honors College Junior Wins Critical Language Scholarship

(April 4, 2016, New York, NY) - Macaulay Honors College at The City University of New York announces **Alina Shen '17** (City College) has won a Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) to study Mandarin in Taiwan. CLS is an intensive overseas language study program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. It is part of a U.S. government effort to dramatically expand the number of Americans studying and mastering critical foreign languages.

Shen is a heritage speaker of Mandarin who grew up speaking the language but says she has forgotten it over time. Although she had been studying Chinese for three hours every Saturday for around ten years with varying levels of rigor and formality, Shen felt she needed more focus to help her community. The Fresh Meadows, Queens native applied to the CLS program after becoming involved with various programs and offices in Chinatown and Flushing.

"I often found myself unable to communicate to Mandarin speakers when trying to discuss topics like civic engagement, education systems, and labor organizing, so learning Mandarin became all the more important for communication and community organizing," said Shen.

The Macaulay junior will spend 10 weeks gaining more proficiency in Mandarin as a result of the CLS program. Shen is also a [William R. Kenan scholar](#) and [Horace W. Goldsmith Scholar](#).

About Macaulay Honors College

Macaulay Honors College at The City University of New York offers exceptional students a uniquely personalized education with access to the vast resources of the nation's largest urban university and the largest city, New York City. Selected for their top high school records and leadership potential, Macaulay students receive a full tuition scholarship, a laptop and technology support, and an Opportunities Fund to pursue global learning, research and service opportunities. Macaulay students enroll in one of eight CUNY senior colleges: Baruch, Brooklyn, City, Hunter, John Jay, Lehman, and Queens Colleges and the College of Staten Island. For more information, see macaulay.cuny.edu.