

I'm a Japanese.

— When I introduce myself as Japanese, most people show surprised faces. Because there's a huge population of Chinese students here in UCSD, it's easy to assume that all Asians are the same — although the category “Asian” is in fact very complex and diverse.

do you study all the time?

— To those people who ask me this question because I'm Asian, you're not wrong. I'm Asian, and I work hard, because my family back in Japan supports me and wish me a success. Also because I want to learn new things and make a change my home country. Being Asian does not automatically make me a hard-worker, but the *reason* why I chose to come here from one Asian country might explain why I work hard.

I play piano.

— As far as I know, not *all* Asians have a piano in their living room, and very few have continued to practice for 15+years like me. So don't show me the face of “ah, classic Asian” as if you know everything.

“nerds”

— I think UCSD being known for “UC Socially Dead” actually helps people, especially Asians to take a pride in being a nerd. In other schools where there's a very few Asian population, they could be afraid of being intellectual and obsessive, because falling into such “Asian stereotype” can force them into being minoritized.