

## 2017 Louise Garside \$5,000 Graduate Scholarship Recipient: Tiffany Chu



*Tiffany Chu (Louise Garside Graduate Scholarship Recipient), 2017*

Tiffany Chu wants taxpayers and transit riders to get what they deserve, value for their money. A master's degree candidate in public policy at UCLA, Chu maintains a near-perfect 3.94 GPA. In addition to numerous scholarships and fellowship awards, Chu also earned a BA in economics from UCLA, graduating magna cum laude. She also gained stellar work experience in transportation and urban planning. But awards, plaudits, and resume building are the furthest thing from her mind when it comes to transportation.

"I plan on working as a transportation economist/analyst at a large transit authority or transportation consulting firm. I want to continue in a line of work that uses existing public transit infrastructure to further improve mobility, decrease time and travel costs for transit dependents, and increase quality of life." By every indication, she's well on her way to accomplishing exactly that. But don't take our word for it. Here is what esteemed transportation scholar and UCLA professor Brian Taylor has to say about Chu, who works as a research assistant on his project.

"This is a high-profile study that is of interest to many public officials around the state, and Ms. Chu's outstanding work on it is likely to have a significant influence on transportation policy in the months and years ahead. The research team for this project is comprised of three professors, a fourth-year PhD student, and Ms. Chu. Despite being the most junior partner in this enterprise, Ms. Chu is by no means over her head...In sum, Ms. Chu's analytical capacity and self-direction place her in the top five percent of master's students with whom I have worked over the past 25 years – she is that good. She is, as a student and a researcher, at the very top of her graduate cohort here in the UCLA Luskin School."

It would be easy for Tiffany Chu to settle for being one of the best in her field, despite her age. But she doesn't. She strives constantly to improve herself and others through her work. And that sounds strikingly similar to Louise Garside.