

One of the biggest challenges for every human being is to find their place in this world, to discover their vocation. Ever since I began considering alternatives for my university education, I have been convinced that one should study a particular course that he truly finds interesting and appealing to him. Therefore, I knew that I wanted to study business-related subjects and applied for Tilburg University in the Netherlands.

Currently two years later, I feel delighted and satisfied with my decision. While studying International Business Administration in Tilburg University, I have gained a lot both in a professionally and personally sense. During the first year, I decided to focus mainly on my studies in order to successfully adapt to the academic pace. Thus, I gained a basic knowledge and capability to understand the business dynamic of the modern world. In order to improve my personal and business skills, I wanted to face practical challenges and to expand my studies beyond the regular academic curriculum. Following this, in the second year of my study programme, I became active member in one of the faculty associations - Asset |International Business and Management. Currently, I am part of the Quest committee which is responsible to organize an interactive symposium between companies and students. However, the committee related tasks are only short term, since the event takes place in the beginning of next year and I have started searching for other options.

During the International Exchange programme presentation at Tilburg University I assured myself that it is one of the best options for me and my long term career goals. Studying abroad would give me valuable experience and opportunity to get a more nuanced understanding of the world. Having day-to-day interactions with locals, get accustomed to their habits, customs, traditions and culture, gaining a first-hand judgement and experience will broaden my horizon for life. In addition, I could improve my communication and organizational skills which are crucial in our dynamic business world. Completely changing the surrounding environment will give me a chance to enhance my personal skills and gain more independence. Living in a new country will enable me to become more responsible and open-minded; having the ability to succeed in a new and unknown environment, manage my own budget is one of the major aspects of being an independent adult.

The opportunity to study one semester abroad and build experience in another international atmosphere is something unique. Without my regular support from family and close friends, I will be exposed to make new acquaintanceship and hopefully meet new friends and future business partners. Furthermore, going on exchange is a chance to be adventurous, explore the unknown and try new activities that have never been within my reach before. I see myself as considerate and reliable, sensitive and tolerant towards others, and I do believe I would fit well with student community in other country.

I have spent reasonable time considering the broad list of destinations for International Exchange provided by Tilburg University and I strongly believe that one of the best options for me is a university in Italy – a balanced choice in terms of old and prestigious universities and one of the friendliest multinational environments in the European Union. Since my long term goal is to develop myself in the area of finance, the Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi appeals to be my first choice. The University is respected globally for its excellence, diversity, flexibility, range of opportunities and top quality teachers. Being considered as one of the leading universities in Business and Economics in Italy, it provides a broad variety of courses and more precisely in the finance area. Although I will spend just one semester in Italy, the experience I would gain will undoubtedly help me develop a competitive edge which can contribute my future access to high profile EU companies and further professional development and success.

Over the past several years, Hong Kong can be defined as one of the world's leading international economic centres. In addition to this tremendous growth is the fact that Hong Kong is truly a higher educational powerhouse – placing 3 universities in TOP 100 of the 2013/2014 QS World University Rankings. While reviewing opportunities and options in this country, The Chinese University of Hong Kong influenced me the most – a regional leader with a global reputation in the sphere of education. It combines time-honoured traditions with modernism, maintaining a wide variety of excellent programmes. Although my Exchange programme in such 'far & unknown' destination will be a big challenge for me, I am highly determined and constantly strive to learn and exploit apply new things.

It is an indisputable fact that English universities are well known and appreciated with their professional achievements and intensive study programme. After carefully researching the alternatives for my Exchange programme in the United Kingdom, I found out that University of Exeter could be one of the preferred choices as it is ranked as the 10th best university in the UK and is well recognized worldwide. I really appreciate the innovative approach and practical emphasis in all the programs - the opportunity to build a real business experience and sense of team work and to develop practical skills in a risk-free environment.

In conclusion, I am really convinced that studying abroad will be simultaneously a great opportunity and new wonderful challenge for me, but I am ready to tackle it with all its difficulties and uncertainties. I sincerely believe that the knowledge and experience I can gain in International Exchange could add value to my personal qualities and skills and will contribute further to my professional carrier goals.