

Dear M. Willems,

With this writing I would like to express my motivation to go on exchange. My name is ----- and I am a Bachelor International Business Administration student. To go on exchange has been a dream of mine since I started looking at universities. It was one of my priorities to go to a university which would give me the chance to go on exchange. Finally, the time has come to actually apply and go. Travelling somewhere for the purpose of studying is new to me and I would love to take up this challenge!

There are three main reasons for my decision to go on exchange. First of all, I want to go on exchange because I believe that travelling/going abroad is one of the most valuable things in life. I am extremely interested in other cultures. Whenever I get the chance to travel, I will take that chance. For example, when I finished high school, I took the opportunity to take a gap year. In my gap year I first worked for a long time so I could afford to go abroad after. I chose to go to Indonesia for two months to see parts of the country and to do voluntary work. These experiences can never be taken away from me. Being in other surroundings and getting to know other cultures is a unique way to develop yourself in ways that you could never do at home.

Secondly, going on exchange will give me the chance to develop myself as a person. I will have to deal with all kinds of new situations on my own. In facing these challenges I will be able to discover my strengths and weaknesses. The fact that I will have to do a lot on my own, will also result in me being more independent and confident with myself. My comfort zone will be expanded. This will benefit me as I will be more aware of my own being and the world around me. I can illustrate this with my time in Indonesia. The goal of this trip was to go all by myself and thus become more independent. I learnt a lot from this trip. However, while I was in Indonesia I have done almost everything together with a group. I have been travelling with the same people the whole trip of two months. If I could do it again, I would definitely do more things on my own and actually give myself a chance to develop myself. This is exactly why I want to go on this exchange and really put myself out there. If I am able to put myself out there and do things all by myself, I think I will achieve my goal of developing myself as a person.

Lastly, an exchange could benefit me academically speaking. Besides following interesting academic courses, being in a foreign country will give me the chance to build an international professional network - as I will be meeting different nationalities at the destination. This could benefit me in later life. For example, I plan on having a job in an international setting; an international network could definitely help me get there. Furthermore, an exchange will be a great asset to my curriculum vitae. It is no surprise that it will make me stand out more in later job interviews as employers often look for people who are independent and able to adapt to situations. In addition, I think an exchange could benefit me as I would be experiencing education in a whole new setting. This is interesting and it could give me new perspectives or insights on academic systems as well as skills to deal with different forms of education.

The university I prefer the most to go to on exchange is the University of Oslo in Norway. The first and foremost reason to choose for this university is that the courses that are offered at the UiO fit perfectly in my study program. As I am studying in the field of law and am mostly interested in international law and criminology, courses like 'International Human Rights Law' and 'International Humanitarian Law' appeal to me a whole lot. For example, I find humanitarian law and the role of

human rights very interesting to study as they are examples of aspects of the global issues we are dealing with. At this moment, I am interested in the master program 'Law and Politics of International Security' which is offered in Amsterdam. This master will discuss topics like war, peace, terrorism, criminal law, human rights and human security – the topics that are also greatly present in the courses offered by the UiO. By choosing courses like I just mentioned, I will have more background knowledge of the topics that will be discussed during the master. This could benefit me greatly in the admission process. Also, following such courses will give me a more thorough understanding of some of the subjects we discuss right now in LAS. The University of Oslo is a high-ranked university which makes it all the more appealing. In addition, Scandinavia is a part of the world I have never been to before. I am very keen to explore this part of the world. Norway is needless to say beautiful. The country intrigues me because it is very quiet and peaceful but at the same time bursting with culture. The same goes for Oslo. Oslo is surrounded by the most beautiful places and has a very lively culture. The Faculty of Law in Oslo is located in the middle of the city center between all the important and historical buildings like the Royal Palace and the Parliament. The atmosphere of these surroundings appeals to me as well. To study and live in Oslo would be a great opportunity for me seen what the university can offer me and what the city and country can offer me.

The Catholic University of Leuven does also appeal to me. Again, the university offers lots of courses in the field that I am interested in. It has both courses in international law and criminology, enough options to choose from. Courses like 'Psychology, Law and Criminal Justice' and 'Terrorism, Organized and Corporate Crime' are for the same reasons mentioned above very interesting for my future plan. The university in Leuven is also high-ranked and it would be a great experience to be able to study there. Belgium appeals to me because it is close to home but very different from home. Furthermore, in my opinion, the Belgian cities are one of the coziest cities in the world. Leuven is a beautiful and small city and there is a lot to do and see besides the university.

Lastly, I am also interested to go on exchange to the International Christian University in Tokyo, Japan. This university also offers subjects in the field that I am interested in like 'Peace and Human Rights' and 'International Politics'. These subjects could also contribute greatly to my future plan. The university is located at beautiful green surroundings outside downtown Tokyo. However, I will still be close to the city center of Tokyo. I have never been to Japan before but I have always wanted to because of the culture which is so extremely different from ours. An experience in Japan would have a great influence on my independency. Since the university in Tokyo works with trimesters, I will have the chance to travel to other parts of the country after the semester as well.

To conclude, I would love to go on exchange. I am ready to put myself out there and work on my personal and academic skills. I love to explore other countries and as I looked into the possible destinations, the University of Oslo came out as the perfect candidate. The Catholic University of Leuven appeals to me greatly as well as the International Christian University of Tokyo.

Thank you for considering my application.

Yours sincerely,

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