

Dear Sir/Madam,

With this letter, I would like to take the opportunity to apply for an exchange at ESAN University in Peru. Throughout this letter I will explain my motivation for this country and university. My name is _____, 19 years old and currently a second year International Business Administration student at Tilburg University. Alongside my study, I am an active member at Lacoste; a student association for tennis and the study association Asset | FIRST International. Last year I organized the National Student Championships of Beachtennis for Lacoste and I did the FIRST year's committee at Asset FIRST. This year I am still active at both associations and for Asset FIRST I am currently organizing the intercontinental study trip to China which will take place in the beginning of April. At Lacoste I am part of the Technical Committee, which takes care of organizing all tennis-related activities, the competition and the so called 'clubavonden'.

First of all, I would like to go on exchange because it gives me the ability to see the world and broaden my experiences and skills. When on exchange, you have no one but yourself to depend on, so you really get to know yourself and what your capabilities are. This could help me in making future decisions, but also with my social contacts. Furthermore while being in an international environment you learn a lot about other cultures and habits and with that you also learn more about yourself. This knowledge can be of great use when working in an international company, but also in daily life when relating to persons with different backgrounds. What I also hope to learn during my exchange is to be more open. I was quite shy around new people when I was little and while this changed a lot when I started to go out and especially when I moved to Tilburg, I still find myself feeling a little uncomfortable when being in a room with all unfamiliar people.

One of the main reasons why I chose for a country in South America is because it is a continent and a culture that I have not explored yet. Moreover, I really want to learn the Spanish language. Since I followed the International Baccalaureate program at my high school and I am following an English study now, my English is already quite fluent. Being able to speak Spanish on top of that would give me the possibility to make myself understandable in almost every country in the world. I am following the Spanish beginner's course now and in the spring semester I am going to follow the intermediate course.

I found it really difficult to choose between the different Latin American countries, since I do not know much about them yet, but I decided to go for Peru because of the courses they offered at ESAN University. I also made a list with all advantages and disadvantages of the several countries and Peru came out best. Lima is located next to the sea and I do not know if I am able to live in such a big and vibrant city since I have lived on the countryside most of my life, it is nice to know that I can relieve some stress at the beach. Another reason why I chose for Peru is because there are enough people who have been there before which I can ask for advice and tips to make most out of my exchange. Also, Peru compared to Argentina is a more traditional country and not that Western, which makes it to me more interesting. Furthermore, I heard that the Peruvian accent and the way Peruvian people talk is easier to understand than the Argentinean way of talking.

I decided to go for ESAN University instead of Universidad del Pacifico because of the courses they offered at ESAN University. I found out, while following IBA that I am really interested in the psychological side of business and organizations and at ESAN University they offer many courses in this field of business.

My ambition, my drive to make most out of my life and student life, my eagerness to increase my knowledge, and my eagerness to increase my understanding of other people, cultures and countries drives me to explore, meet and talk to people from all over the world. In this way I can gain many valuable insights and different opinions about a variety of things which can guide me in the future. I

have already been on a work experience in Livingstone, Zambia, where I, together with 7 other students, gave English lessons and sports lesson to children aged 12-18. We also did several fundraising activities and eventually funded and even built a new classroom for those children. While talking and playing with the children you discover that they have a really different view on life and although they knew that their future was really insecure, they all still had big dreams of what job they wanted to do, they all had a positive state of mind and they all were happy when being around us. It was such an incredible experience and made such an impact on my way of thinking and this makes me really curious about how other people and cultures think about the life and the things that they value most. Currently I am organizing a study trip to Beijing and Shanghai which I think will be another valuable experience and I think it will give new insights on my view of the world.

To conclude, I think that I am a good ambassador for Tilburg University as I am really motivated about studying at ESAN University in Lima, Peru. By studying in this beautiful country I hope to become more open and flexible, gain experience in multi-cultural projects, improve my Spanish, gain new cultural insights and of course just have a great time!

Kind regards,
