

Motivation Letter - Going on exchange

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is _____, and I am a second year International Business Administration student at Tilburg University. I would like to take part in the exchange program, and especially to the following universities; City University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and National University of Taiwan. In this letter I will give a motivation why I would like to go on exchange, why I would like to go to South-east Asia and why I would like to go to the mentioned universities in Hong Kong and Taipei, Taiwan in particular.

I have started looking where to go on exchange before I was admitted to the program of International Business Administration. The countries China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan drew my attention from the first moment. This unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity is a big advantage of the program. On exchange, you develop many academic and social skills that are important in your career. Meeting new people, living in a completely different environment and finding your way in this, experiencing cultural and educational differences and learning to deal with them are difficulties I will meet while living in Asia.

In the following, I will give several reasons why I would like to go to South-East Asia. Firstly, the economic situation and economic development going on there is very interesting for my field of study. The Chinese economy grew by 7.8% in the last quarter, where the Dutch economy shrank by 0.1%. Countries in that region are becoming players of importance in global trade and I would like to learn more on how that situation has developed itself.

Secondly, the culture is so different from ours. I have already noticed that during the Chinese for Beginners course I am following at the moment. Asking how you are doing in The Netherlands can be answered with terms like I am fine and I am doing alright, whereas in eastern countries a story on how your life is at that point in time will be given, from how you like the weather, to the backache you are dealing with for weeks, to how the children are doing in school. Learning to deal with these differences will be a huge improvement for me personally and will definitely help me during my future career, since by the time I will be working, the economic region of South-East Asia has become an even more important player in global economics.

Thirdly, travelling through China, Vietnam and Thailand, and seeing the Chinese Wall, Hanoi and Bangkok have been on my to do list for years and this exchange provides me the possibility to do that apart from studying.

Finally, studying in Hong Kong or Taipei provides me the opportunity to continue my rowing career. I have been a professional rower at Vidar for one and a half year now and I am looking forward to continuing this on a temporary lower level on exchange. The head coach at Vidar, Diederik de Boorder, has connections in both countries, which will make it easy for me to join a rowing association.

During the international dinner, I have obtained information on both City University and Chinese University of Hong Kong. The experiences were very

good and courses were challenging yet exciting. Since I am particularly interested in the fields of Finance and Macroeconomics, courses such as Mergers and Acquisitions and Green Economics appeal very much to me, and are an addition to my curriculum, since these courses are not given in my program. Another reason for me to choose these universities is the fact that they are both situated in the mainland part of Hong Kong. This part is very much influenced by the Chinese culture, whereas the island of Hong Kong is more like western countries. This attracts me, since this is a unique mix between the eastern and western civilization.

Finally, the National University of Taiwan offers a range of courses, which I am very interested in. Managing Human Capital in Global Markets sounds very interesting. Also Labour Economics and Chinese Economy and Politics sound appealing. Apart from the four named in the application, many other courses, such as Investments and Japanese Business are courses I can learn much from and will be an addition to my curriculum.

There are several reasons why I am a good ambassador for Tilburg University. Firstly, as a professional rower, you not only defend the honor of your association, but also the honor of the university. As Laga does that for TU Delft, and Nereus for the Free University of Amsterdam, so does Vidar that for Tilburg University.

Secondly, I have contributed to several promotions for Tilburg and Tilburg University. I have been a mentor during so-called meeloopdagen, days where students from high school can taste the environment on the campus and check whether a program fits their study plans.

I have also helped out during bachelor information days by providing information about student life in Tilburg and studying at Tilburg University. Lastly, I am quite satisfied with the level of the program I follow and with the level of the lecturers. I have almost only had positive experiences during my time at Tilburg University, so I would like to share that with the people I meet on exchange.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet you and give a further explanation on my motivation.

Thank you for considering my application,

Yours sincerely,
