

Motivation Letter for Exchange

Back when I was a little child, my father would tell me and my little brother stories about his time abroad as a biology doctorand in countries like Thailand, Yemen, Mexico, Brazil, Tunisia, Benin and many other, what inspired me.

My name is -----, 19 years old, born in Benin and raised in Germany. Going abroad always struck me as a valuable experience both personally, professionally and academically. I based my goal destinations on the opportunity to significantly improve one of the foreign languages I speak (French or Spanish), the reputation of the university, future job and internship possibilities and finally, quality, and teaching methods used of the courses.

I started studying International Business Administration one year ago, with the goal of working in an international company. Thrown in the inspiring environment of Tilburg University, with all its engaged professors with an impressive CV and list of achievements, symposia, internship and extracurricular activities and most importantly both cultural and intellectually diverse student body, made me want to expand my knowledge even more. I believe in a holistic approach of conceptualizing our world and therefore think that a basic understanding of every complex aspect of our life is important.

I also decided to take Global law as well in order to gain extra qualifications and broaden my perspective. Therefore, I applied and luckily got accepted in the distinguished and interdisciplinary Bachelor program Global Law, that offers a solid legal training and insights in multiple legal systems, which supplements my knowledge and perspective with an essential legal component that distinguishes me from other business students and consequently, makes me much more valuable employers, in a professional world of ever rising expectations.

Combining the two fields I am educating myself in, I aspire being a strategic consultant for international companies.

In addition to my studies I also engage in various extracurricular activities that I specifically chose according to my interests and the effect they would have on my soft skills. I am currently in the board of Tilburg's Model United Nations and in charge of the weekly training sessions we hold in order to prepare our delegation for various conferences in the Netherlands as well as abroad. This simulation of the UN conferencing helped me hugely with my public speaking and negotiation skills, while the whole act of organizing the sessions and trips contributed to a better sense of organization and coordination. After participating and organizing MUN I also understood the value of team work and found it inspiring to work with a diverse team of international students from all faculties of Tilburg University.

Because I truly believe in the advantages of a broad knowledge base, rather than a specialized one, as explained by Emilie Wapnick in her TED Talk about "Multipotentiality"¹, I was particularly drawn to the ITAM (Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México) University in Mexico, as it advertised on their website to take subjects cross-faculty and therefore broaden their knowledge even more.

Another aspect that appealed me about ITAM, was the fact that most courses are in Spanish, which will enable me to polish my existing Spanish skills to an academic level. I was further impressed with this university

¹ Emilie Wapnick's (writer of the book "Renaissance business") TED Talk: "Why some of us don't have one true calling" https://www.ted.com/talks/emilie_wapnick_why_some_of_us_don_t_have_one_true_calling?language=en#t-343753 Explains the arrange of advantages that people with multiple interests, adopting knowledge in multiple fields have, a really inspiring talk that invites to reconsider today's ideal of a professional individual

and therefore made it my first choice, since it combines Law, Economics and Social Science in one academic division, the research efforts taken by this university, its impressive academic staff and it being recognized as the best business school in Latin America (América Economía, 2010). The courses that interested me the most were: “Problemas de la Realidad Mexicana Contemporánea”, “Desarrollo Empresarial”, “Mercadotecnia II: Investigación de Mercados” and “Ideas e Instituciones Políticas y Sociales III”, as those courses offer a special perspective, knowledge across faculties and are unique in the sense that they zoom in on issues that specifically address Mexico.

This brings me to another reason for choosing this university. Wanting to work internationally and favoring taking on a position abroad (not in my home-country Germany or the Netherlands, my second home-country), studying in Mexico and acquiring the necessary language skills, I gain the opportunity of expanding my professional network and possibly do internships in firms like Facebook, HSBC or Google that all have headquarters in Mexico city. Apart from those firms a lot of other consulting firms (Pinkerton, Fdfti Mexico, Bain & Company Mexico Inc. etc.) are also situated in the city.

Marseille struck me as a particularly interesting destination as my proficiency in the language (as it is my mother’s native language) enables me to immerse into the culture and language and gain valuable experience for future international corporation with French counterparts, as a mutual understanding of customs in business is particularly important. Also this university offers an interesting portfolio of courses and are widely accredited. Especially the courses “Problèmes et politiques économiques”, “Gestion des opérations”, “Management stratégique des organisations” and “Management des grandes entreprises” caught my attention, as they fit my career goals of being a strategic consultant and my preference (inclination of taking a Masters) for a Master in Strategic Management really well.

The HEC Montréal business school is a high quality, well accredited university offering courses in English, French and Spanish, and therefore meeting my requirements for a linguistically diverse university. I was particularly interested in the courses “Gestion des opérations”, “Leaders et Leadership”, “Gérer sa vie professionnelle”, “Psychologie du pouvoir politique organisationnel” and “Analyse de marchés” as those French-taught courses both fit my consulting aspirations and improve my business French. Moreover they seem the perfect preparation, both in an enriching as well as deepening sense, for my Masters in Strategic Management in Tilburg University. Also the city of Montréal as a metropolitan offers many opportunities for internships and the proximity to business world hot spots as New York, Boston, Salt Lake City and Ottawa.

My past experiences in different jobs and volunteering experiences, among others working as a call-center agent, waitress, voluntary translator for immigrants in Germany, French private-tutor at my previous high school² show my interest and dedication and also that I am not afraid of taking on new challenges in pursuit of personal and professional growth and that from an age as young as 15.

My average grade for the first year gravitates around 7, but in this semester my mid-term grades were much higher despite having a course load of 54ECTS this semester (due the combination of Global Law and IBA courses). For example, I got a 9.3 in my Philosophy of Science course, while my Global Law grades currently amount to an average of 9.75 in the course Economics for Lawyers and an average of 7.5 in Psychology and Criminology. I think the fact that my grades, despite the fact of rising responsibility shows both my dedication and the effect that stimulation can have on my success.

Concluding, I am a woman that works towards the best she can get in every situation. Every difficulty will be taken as a challenge, every opportunity cherished.

Thank you.

² See my CV