

Motivational Letter
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To live in this fast paced, rapidly changing world is so exciting. There are so many new developments in technology which seemed ludicrous just a couple of years ago. Self-driving cars, delivery drones, flying taxis.... Materials, habits, visions, climate, everything is on the move. And we, generation Z have the opportunity to sculpt this ever-exciting future! But after this exciting idea comes the challenge: which will be my role in this great future?

When searching for programs on the internet, I discovered ATLAS. This program's unique combination of Liberal Arts and Sciences combined with Technology is different and out of the box. The possibility to combine arts, sciences and technology in one program is in line with how I see myself develop and how I see engineers develop in the future. The necessity of having training in social aspects of engineering is in my opinion underrepresented in most programs. This is very unfortunate because in my opinion, creativity and views on social issues will be amongst the most important aspects of engineering positions in the future. The courses provided in ATLAS such as movement and human behavior will no doubt challenge us, students, in thinking about topics like the role of robots vs humans, whilst providing a solid scientific and mathematical background for future study domains. Sustainable systems are a great personal interest of mine that was awakened by my earlier projects in the sustainability service group about which I elaborate further in this letter. The course called living under extreme conditions is in my opinion linked to sustainability. By combining both mentioned courses with developing sustainable products using durable materials we can work towards a livable future. For wicked problems I am looking forward to investigating some interesting questions about how science can help society. Big data in Healthcare can save lives, but how can we collect this data? How to incorporate big data in architecture or products, how to monitor this and use (and protect) this data to our benefit? These are interesting challenges which are going on now and which are becoming more and more visible in all branches of the industry. I strongly believe that the ATLAS program will give me access to a combination of several directions and will make me experience how this can shape my further education & career path. Of course, I welcome the opportunity to discover yet another domain in a University abroad during the electives semester.

During my visit to your campus last summer, the tour we received from one of your students was truly inspiring. For starters she guided us around campus. We bumped into many fellow students most of them from different countries. In my view, this international scope of the University, is what is needed in today's world. I do not want to be limited to boundaries of a country, culture or language. The habit of working in team with different cultures prepares you for the real working world. In addition, the guide mentioned that there is a continuous workload for ATLAS students throughout the year which is in line with my current IB education. The Personal Development Plan and Self Evaluation Report in combination with working as teams are aspects that we have been practicing in IB and are in line with corporate demands. Project-based learning is a key element of IB education and is in my opinion also a better preparation for what will be needed in my future professional life. In short, I am convinced that your University would be a great match for me. Finally, the clearly visible social connection between the students reassured me of the fact that this could be my home away from home (9000 km away).

From a technical point of view, I am especially looking forward to the design part of the program. At the Frankfurt International School (FIS), I followed a course called Design and Technology and had the opportunity to design many items & products such as a 3D model airplane keychain (using CAD), a book holder, a desk organizer and much more! Since the school purchased a 3D printer, the many possibilities of digital printing became available to us.

An additional plus for me is that the program is offered in English, which will allow me to grow my English professional vocabulary which is required for an international career. Having grown up all around the world, I would prefer to study within an international environment. Throughout the years I have developed an affinity for meeting people from different ethnicities and cultures and who speak different languages. Having my Belgian nationality of course allows me to speak fluent Dutch in addition to German, French and English. I hope to further develop my language skills during my bachelor's degree with Chinese and Japanese, since I am convinced that Asia will be increasingly intertwined in our economy.

I moved from Frankfurt to Yokohama in the middle of 10th grade. This was a challenge. Leaving behind my trusted circle of friends at the age of 15, the move to an entirely new culture, school and group of friends had its effect on me. It became more difficult when I realised the students math higher level class were a level above me, due to the fact that most of them have been taking math courses after school since kindergarten. Additionally, many of the students in my class were from Japanese Origin, so whenever they were discussing a problem, I could not offer my opinion, due to them conversing in Japanese. Hence, I often felt excluded. This was emotionally very tough. To increase my chances in receiving overall good grades for my other High-Levels, Chemistry and Physics, I decided to go down to SL Math, which was a hard decision to make. However, I will continue learning more maths in the summer, to make up for this loss. The intense math courses will take place at the Boswell-Beta institute in Utrecht. I was advised that the six weeks Math B course in English will be most beneficial. Although I am quite convinced having done HL math up to beginning of year 12, I have covered many more math topics than a typical math student. I think this course will help round up my knowledge and be fully prepared to commence my studies. Although this recent switch in my life has been challenging for me, I am quite proud of myself about how I persevered.

Although the curricular part of my education is very demanding, this has not held me back from participating in several extracurricular activities. During high school I had the opportunity to take part in super interesting activities such as Model United Nations, Sustainability Service Group, HOPE Cambodia Service Group, Varsity Soccer, AISA Math's and much more. I always strive to balance curricular and extracurricular activities in my life since they provide so much learning opportunities. At the Model United Nations I learned how to defend my beliefs rationally and with passion and to critically analyze, attentively listen to and meticulously observe other people's convictions. From the sustainability service group I learned how recycling and upcycling are important in order to take care of our environment. This triggered my drive about sustainability and how I can contribute to this for future generations. From HOPE Cambodia Service group I learned how to collaboratively work with peers to raise money for the people living in the rural areas. AISA Math's provided the opportunity of analyzing challenges in group and creatively working together in finding solutions. In addition, Yokohama International School is one of 3 schools in the world that offers to obtain the GCD, which stands for Global Citizen Diploma.

I am convinced of the fact that I have many aspects to attribute to my learning community. I consider myself a globalist who has lived in many cultures and countries and enjoy socializing and working with people around the globe. I think I can offer different viewpoints in an already diverse group of students. Based on my experience in extra-curricular activities and having gone through a lot of change in living environments, I believe I can offer help, guidance & support to fellow students. I am looking forward to becoming a resident and aim to build a strong academic & social support network far away from home.

Life is very short, and we must make the best of it. Although I am a down-to-earth realistic type of person, I do believe that one day I will be the CEO of my own start-up company, built from scratch. This goal motivates me to study and work hard. I hope the above-mentioned arguments have convinced you that I am a motivated and hardworking student and I would be very grateful if I am offered the possibility to study at University College Twente. I am very much looking forward to contributing to the development of the program as an active participant in an ever growing global world starting in Twente.

Best Regards, Maxence