I am a college student in the University of Cartagena, Colombia as a future System’s Engineering. This college is public so the focus of the career is focused on research and work opportunities; because of this, inside my college I am able to pay full fee each semester with a best GPA scholarship, besides this I work as a technician of systems and networking, this degree I got it thanks to a covenant between my high school and an enterprise dedicated to work opportunities and education (SENA Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje), I study there after school’s hours so that I can have an income, which is the minimum allowed by my country ($232 USD = $689000 COP), as I began my savings for college which I got in with an registration exam as the fourth best grade, before that, thanks to my grades I got the best GPA scholarship. Working and studying is hard but is a must in Colombia, the country I live in, so my budget for studying in places where there is no scholarship available is not easy. I am trying my best to save to pay for this course but if I can have financial assistance it could allow me to spend more of my money in bigger courses in edX. In summary, my budget is low and taking this course is a shot I am willing to take even if I can pay the certification, I will still get all the knowledge of the course and use it as an advantage in my daily life.

I am trying to get an academic interchange focused on data analysis outside my country and for that I must deliver a curriculum vita in order to prove my worth in other academies. I have been in a few cities in Florida looking for college which suits my needs the best and Full-Sail has been a wanted option for a while, due to having relatives living in Florida, I hope to obtain a scholarship in some college focused on computer science, programming or systems that I could apply to. This certificate has value internationally and besides proving my ability to communicate in a second language (English), with this I can demonstrate that I can work, study and improve using this second language because there is a difference in using it for communication and using it in an academic environment. I have been working in C++, C, PHP and PgSQL for a while due to my career but my college is not focused on data analysis which I am very interested, thanks to some research I found this course and saw an opportunity to learn a new programming language and give me a brief start in data analysis. My goal is to pursuit a career in data analysis or jobs alike and to do so, a certificated introductory course will be a helpful when applying to colleges so that I can get an interchange and be part of a research group in a near to medium future. Getting this done will improve my life and also give me the opportunity to come back to my country and find people interested in the same path that I want to take so more and more people get involved in computer science.

I will study every day I can and follow some mentors’ guide that I have so I can surpass the rhythm of the course and help others in the forums, parallel to this I will be maintaining a public repository in GitHub as a way to get involved in git and CVS alike which will be a bonus in my resume as this are used in every development project and I wish to be in one soon; in this repository I will be keeping all the scripts that I make related to the course as a way to store my progress and as a place to come back whenever I have a doubt on certain subjects. Even tough studying is a great way to learn, it is not the only one so I will be using my time and space in a research group in my college dedicated to robotics and electronics to make projects using what I learn in this course, especially analysis of large data and thanks to this I will be able to question myself which will improve my curiosity, making me solve problems and understand them which for me, is the best way to learn. Doing all of the above will give me the experience I need to be prepared for a start in a career in data analysis, although this is only one course and I need more preparation in other places (maybe two or three more courses in edX), the first step is always the hardest and I am ready to start.