

Statement of purpose

I am writing this letter to apply for the position of assistant/PhD-student at UCLouvain, specifically Institute of Statistics, Biostatistics and Actuarial Sciences (ISBA). During my studies, I became interested in how statistical research can help to better understand society, and as a consequence it has become my ambition to pursue a career in statistical research. I believe that pursuing a PhD at UCLouvain is the right step for this purpose.

I completed a Bachelor's degree in Social-Economic Sciences at the Universiteit Antwerpen (UA). This program focuses on the analysis of social problems from both a sociological and economic perspective, thereby fostering a critical intuition. After earning this degree with distinction, I subsequently enrolled in the Master's program in Applied Economic Sciences: Economic Policy at the same university. Here, I learned the necessary applied econometric and theoretical skills to conduct basic economic research. I also gained my first practical research experience during this time by writing referee reports and completing my master's thesis on the impact of COVID-19 on global income inequality.

Subsequently, I enrolled in the Master of Advanced Studies in Economics at the KU Leuven. This research master's is targeted at students who wish to pursue a PhD and subsequent research career in economics. Its coursework consists of PhD-level courses, such as advanced micro- and macroeconomics, econometrics and dynamic methods. By following this program, I became capable of both understanding and producing state-of-the-art economic research. My master's thesis during this year was written on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on multidimensional inequality in the Netherlands.

Since November 2023, I have worked as a PhD student in medicine (health economics) at the Universiteit Antwerpen. Here, I work on the economic evaluation of interventions against epidemics using so-called 'epi-econ' models. By working on this project, I have become more skilled in theoretical modeling and programming. Nevertheless, I have realized that I am interested in 'pure' statistical research in other health-related domains, and in its future professional possibilities.

My research interests are mainly situated in health statistics. I believe that these interests correspond well with the research interests of the faculty at ISBA. Preferably, I make use of a combination of theoretical and empirical techniques in my research. My professional career goal is to either pursue an academic research career or to work as a researcher in an international research organization. ISBA is renowned for its high quality of statistical research and ultimately, I believe that this position will allow me to optimally develop as a researcher.

Note: Please treat this application as confidential and do not contact my current department. I also do have to note that my French level was B1 8 years ago and I have not spoken French ever since. If this is not sufficient, you may disregard my application. I am also only available from mid-September (preferably start of October).