Statement of purpose

I am writing this letter to apply for the position of assistant/PhD-student at UCLouvain. During my studies, I became interested in how economic research can help to better understand social phenomena and how they can be used to make policy more effective, and as a consequence it has become my ambition to pursue a career in economic 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. I believe my grades were negatively impacted during this year as I did not have accommodation near campus and as I spent a lot of time on a grant proposal.

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 remain interested in ‘pure’ economic research and journals, and in its future professional possibilities.

My research interests are mainly situated in subjects related to applied microeconomics, especially in health and welfare economics, but I am open for research in other micro-related fields (e.g. public,

development) as well. I believe that these interests correspond well with the research interests of the faculty at CORE/IRES. 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 (but in

economics) or to work as a research economist in an (international) economic research organization. The UCLouvain is renowned for its high quality of economic 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 is (high) B1 or (low) B2, I do not know this exactly as I have not spoken French in 6 years. I have not enclosed a proposal as I noticed the vacancy rather late, and was not completely sure if this was a strict requirement. Feel free to let me know if it is.