**Statement of academic purpose**

The World Economic Forum claimed that MSMEs are the backbone of Indonesia’s economy, contributing to nearly 65% of the nation’s GDP. However, I always wonder why Indonesia is still stuck in the lower-middle trap for nearly 29 years despite our thriving economy. The main reason is that Indonesia lacks skilled workers. While being ASEAN’s largest workforce, the composition of skilled workers in Indonesia as per 2022 is only 40% of the total workforce - significantly lower compared to Singapore’s 54% in 2017. To reach the goal of becoming a developed country by 2045, many efforts have been taken by the government to increase this number: mainly by improving education quality and through labour force training. Sadly, the impact of an education reform towards our economy might take ages to realise. As a result, a plan to facilitate education reformation is urgently needed.

Industrialization is proven to be one of the suitable methods to solve this issue. In China, industrialization has raised the lives of citizens from extreme poverty in the early 2000s. Indonesia too can learn from China’s case due to its similar state of labour quality and size of workforce. In fact, Indonesia had an industrialization peak moment during the early 21st century, but forcefully shifted from manufacturing to service and other informal sectors, because we lost to China’s manufacturing cost. While countries who successfully leave industrialization and shifted to service sectors tend to perform better economically such as the US and UK, Indonesia's deindustrialization is viewed negatively; this is what we call as premature deindustrialization.

The issue of premature deindustrialization is because our workforce is not ready to accommodate service and other informal industries which require higher skills among the workforce. While it is sad that Indonesia experienced premature deindustrialization, we can still fix it. Industrialization allows unskilled laborers to work because many of the jobs are repetitive - as long as we can find balance between the allocation of skilled and unskilled ones, Indonesia is back on track.

This issue motivates me to pursue further studies in Operational Research (OR) because OR is a study that complements well with industrialization. I imagined being an entrepreneur in the supply chain & manufacturing industry who is capable of allocating skilled and unskilled workers in factories in different fields, trying to find the near-perfect ratio between unskilled and skilled workers so that we can entrust the skilled ones to lead and train the unskilled ones. For instance, industries that are chemical-related require a higher ratio of skilled to unskilled laborers while industries like textile and clothing require a lower ratio of skilled to unskilled laborers due to its high chances of danger, requiring its workers to have a higher expected prerequisite education. Not only can it solve issues relevant to human resources in the industry, it can also build a robust end-to-end production process in factories that is efficient while ensuring proper waste disposal to fulfill the Paris Agreement. For instance, whether to consider adding one more type of machine that can neutralize industrial waste, or upgrading some of the current machines into an eco-friendly version - these things can be calculated using multi-objective optimization, one of OR’s branch of study, to maximize a factory’s profitability while ensuring that its waste is below the government’s requirement. These are just a tiny bit of issues in Indonesia, and more of them can still be solved using OR.

There are several motivations on why I want to pursue an advanced degree in Operations Research & Analytics. My first motivation is to become a unique applicant for management consulting in my area of interest. Prior to achieving my entrepreneurial dream, I want to gather several years of experience in supply chain & manufacturing to have a stronger presence in the industry. An industry famous for its rigorous selection rounds, being well-prepared is an understatement since failure to pass the round may result in a rejection ban which requires the candidate to wait for 2 years before reapplying. Although I have gone through several internship experiences as CEO office which involves working alongside management consultants from BCG and Strategy&, I believe gaining specialization prior to entering management consulting allows me to gain more exposure to industrialization during my management consulting experience in the future.

My second motivation is academic curiosity. My first encounter with operations research occurred when I was in Year 3, and I immediately enjoyed the class. I remembered my operations research professor and my supervisor for my final year project, Dr. Ruonan Zhang, told the whole class during the first meeting on the importance of the ability to not only solve the problem, but also to communicate the solution. Sadly, OR class was only offered for one semester because my undergraduate program was in Financial Mathematics. Due to my short encounter with OR class, I decided to focus on OR for my final year project and utilize both Analytical Hierarchy Process & Multi-Objective Optimisation in the project. Nevertheless, my strong background in applied mathematics and programming taught throughout my undergraduate program increases my preparedness to successfully complete the advanced program in Operations Research & Analytics.

In the effort towards accomplishing my career goals, I have been preparing both academically and professionally. Professionally, I have gone through a variety of internship experience, with more CEO office experiences for the past one year. Throughout my internships as a CEO office, I gained some professional experiences by working alongside management consultants from BCG and Strategy&, such as improving my communication skills verbally through communicating with different stakeholders and writing through composing email and presentation decks, or even applying the knowledge that I learnt throughout my undergraduate studies into my work. Although most of the tasks delegated throughout my internship experience don't require specialization, I was given the opportunity to work on a case study for my final year project relevant to supply chain: optimization of product management flow. While the work is currently still in progress, I was able to apply my academic skills into my professional experience, and I will be delighted to share my results once the project is completed.

I believe the LSE MSc Operations Research & Analytics program can enhance my expertise since the program in LSE aligns with my goal in many ways. Gaining specialization in supply chain and logistics has been my purpose of pursuing an advanced degree, and the education quality in LSE MSc Operations Research & Analytics is no doubt. Its variety of optimisation and algorithmic courses intrigues me the most because I want to specialize in the formulation of algorithms for supply chain optimisation. However, the consultancy role, part of its practical program, is the most intriguing one as it will be very helpful to ace my consulting application.

Aside from LSE’s academic quality, LSE’s promising reputation among people all over the world allows me to gain plenty of opportunities, such as strong networking and business opportunities. There are several LSE Societies that caught my interest, ranging from consulting ones like 180 Degrees Consulting and Castore Consulting, to entrepreneurship, that will be beneficial to hone my skills which allows me to be a well-prepared consulting applicant. It will be my personal honor if I can be a part of the LSE community.

Hi Clarysa:

Structurally, I think there’s no need for any major changes. I would summarize the flow of your essay to be as follows:

* Problem statement: Indonesian economy stuck in lower-middle income trap
* Industrialization can be one main solution that you want to focus on
* How OR supports industrialization
* How your educational and professional background and aspirations support your interest in pursuing OR
* How pursuing the LSE MSc Operations Research & Analytics program will help you achieve all the above (and why LSE and the program)

A few notes on the flow of the essay:

1. Background on deindustrialization in Indonesia (para 1-3)

* I would shorten this part just a little bit because I think between this and your explanation of how OR relates to industrialization, they take up quite a portion of the essay.
* I would state a very clear problem statement and goal here. Make these two clear sentences that the reader can pinpoint at first read.

1. OR and Industrialization
2. Professional motivation – consulting

* As I mentioned above, it would be great to also include what about consulting will support your future career aspirations and link that to your initial problem statement of industrialization.
* Aside from mentioning your career motivation, I suggest incorporating your professional experiences.

1. Academic background

* In addition to mentioning what you’ve done, I suggest briefly highlighting relevant skills you’ve gained, such as through your final project. What did you achieve? What did you learn?
* You can also mention how you applied your academics to your professional experience here.

1. Why LSE & conclusion

* Make sure your conclusion summarizes your personal statement. I would summarize it by going back to your ‘bigger purpose’ you initially stated related to the Indonesian economy.

Lastly, were there any personal projects/ extra-curricular activities worth mentioning? If not, you can focus on the above.

All the best!