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**August 2021**

**LETTER OF TUITION FEE REDUCTION REQUEST**

**Dear Ms. Greening**

I'm Gurkan Yesilyurt. I have been accepted to the PhD program in the Defence and Security Department of Cranfield University. Receiving this acceptance has been one of the most important turning points in my life. I'm so glad. Because what I've been through in Turkey in the last 5 years has been really tough. Aware of these challenges, Mr. Andrew McDowell, with whom I have worked in NATO for 3 years, pointed out these in his reference letter. (Annex-1).

I would like to elaborate this. Till 2017 I was wonderful Turkish Staff Officer full of military diplomatic missions both in NATO and Turkish General Staff, drafting speech notes of Turkish CHOD, accompanying Defence Minister of Turkey to the NATO meetings.

But **in 2017 January I was retired from my duties** without my consent and against current law in Turkey. Although there was no legal action against me, I was in danger to be arrested any time since I was dismissed from my job by government decree. Besides these security concerns it was nearly impossible to find prober job to finance our expenses in Turkey. I was uncertain about what to do next in my life.

I decided to move to Europe where me and my family would be more secure. That's why I came to France with my wife and 4 kids in July 2020. **I applied for an asylum in France** as it is not safe for me and my wife to return to my country.

Meanwhile I searched a new domain in which I would build my career. Since I had 3 master’s degree, I decided to make effort to become academic personal. Having a PhD degree will pave the way for me to reach this ambition.

However, **the tuition and taxes of this PhD programme are way too high** for me to pay. I have to wait 4 more years before I can retire in Turkey and receive a pension. I do not have any other income. I had some difficulties with my family in Turkey. I am currently living with the 1200 Euros that the French Government gives me on a monthly basis.

However, **my economic situation** **is not completely zero.** I have 30,000 euros which I accumulated during my NATO mission in Belgium between 2011-2014. This can cover my tuition fees only from UK fee level. Since I plan to come to Shrivenham by myself, this is also enough to cover life expenses there.

I convey all this to you with all my sincere feelings. My only goal is that the high tuition and tax fees do not hinder my education. For this purpose, I have applied to many institutions for scholarship opportunities. I also applied to refugee organizations that provides fund for academics at risk. You can see the institutions I have applied to so far in Annex-2.

I haven't been able to find any results from my research so far. You can see the reasons in the Annex-2. There are also pending and ongoing applications. I will continue to search from now on. The experts whom I contacted with advised me to reach out to the University who accepted me to request potential funds or reductions on tuition fees (especially STAR in UK, CREAN in France). I can provide my correspondence with them if requested.

I am in the process of issuing a CAS document until September in my registration process. My only request is to have UK tuition fees applied to me.

I am looking forward to hearing your generous action on this petition which in turn will touch to my life.

Yours sincerely,

Gurkan Yesilyurt

Annexes:

Annex 1: Mr. Andy McDowell’s Reference Letter

Annex 2: Scholarship Applications