

Technical English 2  
Digital Assignment  
Statement Of Purpose

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**Statement of Purpose**

Applying to the Computer Science Engineering Department, MIT

**Shikhar Saxena**

VIT, Vellore

Born after the turn of century, when technology had taken a turning point, my contemporaries and I can truly claim to be 'kids of the tech age'.

Though from a small town of India, the fabric of the world was never alienated to me as home PCs, laptops and cell phones took all into folds. So no wonder fast changing facets of technology never ceased to amaze me. Early in life, I got to learn from my doctor parents, that maintaining balance is the key to living. So I steered my childhood and schooldays balancing the enchantments of technology with natural earthy games and devouring the flavours of both. While the enthusiasm of racing in the skating rink, resisting the opponents at Taekwondo, shuttling the badminton cock or kicking at the football never waned off, the thrills of pacing ahead in The Temple Run or sabotaging in Mini Militia and Call of Duty attracted the mind towards computer science.

To boost this passion further, was the winning moment at the inter-school state level Science Exhibition, where my team bagged the first prize for the model of an unmanned robotic vehicle which could be successfully used by the defence department combating the enemy army without sacrificing the soldiers. Thereafter I recognized my inner urge and my love towards advancing my career in computer science. My parents stoked my efforts and my dreams and I put in my best energies in bettering my skills and identifying the nuances of maths, science and computing. Followed thus the winning spree at national and international Olympiads in high school and higher secondary school. This broadened horizon helped me, a small town guy, come in contact with the stalwarts in field of Computer Science. Since then the seeds of desire to be a part of the highest temple of learning i. e. MIT have been sown.

After school I joined one of best engineering schools in my country, Vellore Institute of Technology, for my bachelors in Computer Science. I must say here my learning of the subject took wings and I was totally in awe to the scope and implementation of Computer Science in future and its implications on the society as a whole. This was the time when Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Augmented Reality were taking shape and gradually percolating in day to day usage. VIT offered a sea of opportunities to its students in the form of frequent workshops and competitive coding culture which put many at wits end but I endeavored to swim along with the wave, which reflected in a decent CGPA of 9.45.

I have also cracked the prestigious Google Summer of Code last year . I worked for the organization named Jenkins ,which has a open source automation server ,under the mentorship of Supun Wanniarachchi , Oleg Nenashev and RunZe Xia . My work was to improve the Role Strategy Plugin Performance. This has proved my expertise in Full Stack Web Development.

Apart from this, I have won two hackathons namely VITHack and DevSoc both in the previous year . In VITHack , my team has made a very strong and powerful fraud detection system using Artificial Intelligence algorithms. In DevSoc which stands for Developers' Sprint of Code , my team has pooled computational resources to enhance the performance of Machine Learning. Also I have been an intern at Microsoft, Hyderabad Office as a software developer during the months of May and June.

VIT, Vellore has a vast, beautiful, green belted campus which abounds in sports, music and literary facilities. So along with my hectic curriculum I managed to keep alive my passion for sports and literature by joining the Trekking Club and Dramatics Society and representing my college at some prestigious inter college fests thereby bringing laurels to the institute as well as enhancing my own *curriculum vitae*. For as stated earlier the balance has to be maintained.

During this time I suffered personal loss of my grandparents both of whom were affected and debilitated by dementia in the later part of their lives. It was painful to see them pass away thus. This in turn gave me a reason to research and apply Artificial Intelligence further in aiding the elderly so that they could lead a dignified life in the sunset of their journey in this world. For I believe science without compassion is futile. And if scientific skills are applied for the betterment of human life, they become boon. Thus it's my ardent desire to pursue further studies at the esteemed Massachusetts Institute of Technology hone my skills, research further, apply my knowledge and use them to improve the quality of life of humankind.

Thank you for considering my application.