1. **What are your motives to apply for this Master's Programme at the University of Helsinki?**

After achieving my International and European Law’s degree in Groningen, I aspire to delve into the field of business law and commercial law as private law and its particular specialisations has always been my personal interest. Regarding all that, University of Helsinki generously offers a program that meets my expectation. I firmly believe that it will help me realise more of my goal of becoming a qualified lawyer in the future. Besides, not only is University of Helsinki a top research university in Europe but also in the world. I was recommended by a friend who is studying the International Business Law’s program that it is a great program which provides all necessary knowledge and practical skills in order to get hand-on experiences before stepping into the labour market after graduation. Finland also belongs to the list of top countries worth living in, which induces me to apply for the program of its oldest and largest university.

**b) How do your previous studies enable you to succeed in the studies of this Master's Programme?** Due to the designated curriculum of the LLB's program urging students carry out extensive research and self-study for a wide range of courses in international as well as European law, I have acquired sufficient legal research skills and the ability to study under pressure. The initial time when I familiarised with legal research was in my first year, I participated in a group research project in comparative constitutional law which centres upon legal aspects of the Indian constitution. In the second year, I enrolled in two extensive research seminars concentrating on public international law and European law whose subjects are very broad, such as the right to de-reference in the digital world, EU citizenship, free movement of goods in EU law, the position of jus cogens norms in the international legal system, impact of recognition on the establishment of a state like Kosovo, and self defence in the context of cyber attacks. Despite my current program’s curriculum leaning towards public international law and EU law, my true interest lies in private law. Accordingly, in the second year, I also conducted another group research focusing on how the financial supervisory models of some Member States of the European Union strive to fit in the regulations laid down in Directives adopted by the EU in the relevant field to find out what Europeanisation looks like in these Member States, then drew the conclusion on the relationship between public and private law. Additionally, I have grasped basic principles of private law by having enrolled in a number of courses offered by Ho Chi Minh City University of Law and University of Groningen, e.g. trade law, corporation law, contract law and property law. Moreover, I am doing a research internship at the Department of Private Law and Notarial Law of University of Groningen, in which I am assigned a topic of personal choice and supervised by a notable professor from the department. The research revolves around comparative expropriation law and how compensation is deemed fair in expropriation circumstances. The internship inspires me in many ways. Firstly, I have a closer observation into one of my fields of interest. Secondly, this is a priceless experience to consolidate my knowledge in comparative law studies and widen my network in the academic world. Lastly, it sharpens my research skills to a greater extent, which prepares me better not only for the dissertation in the final semester but also for the Master’s phase. On top of that, I realised from the second year of Bachelor’s study that balancing between studying priorities and social life is momentous with a view to challenging my limit and training my multitasking ability. In the last academic year, I signed up and was appointed as secretary of the board of a law student association, Nexus. The duty involves creating agendas for weekly meetings, taking minutes, replying to emails and other administrative-related tasks. Moreover, I am taking part in Global Health Law Groningen as a student assistant with its organisation of the new Summer School Program that will occur in July 2019. The tasks include logistical elements, including managing the budget and inviting speakers. The positions have honed me to have meticulous eyes for details, developed my organisational skills, such as time management, arranging and managing schedules, decision making, establishing and keeping deadlines, and some basic computer skills. Therefore, I think I will be suitable for the program because of my adaptability and strong concern for the field.

c**) How do the studies of this Master's Programme complement and broaden your previous studies?** One specialty which I like about the program at University of Helsinki is that there is no compulsory specialisation forcing me to follow for the whole duration of the program but I am allowed to choose courses I feel interested to focus on to deepen my expertise. It is the versatility of the program that renders it stand out from other LLM's programs. Thanks to a plethora of courses, the Master’s program provided by University of Helsinki is truly an opportunity for me to accomplish what I have yearned for. In addition to core courses in Contract Law, Company & Securities Law, Consumer Law, Dispute Resolution, Competition Law, Intellectual Property Law, there is an extensive range of optional courses for me to choose to accumulate more understandings in these fields. Writing seminars is a great method to prepare students for the Master’s dissertation. University of Groningen includes seminars in the curriculum as well to train students to get acquainted with conducting research and I firmly believe that it is an effective method. Thus, the Master’s program can be said to supplement and broaden to a significant extent my fundamental studies in the Bachelor’s phase.

**d) Please specify how studying in this Master's Programme relates to your career objectives and what you wish to achieve by completing your master's degree?** Given inspiration from my father who has committed his life as a civil servant, I dreamed of becoming a lawyer who is capable of bringing justice and order to the community. However, I do not aim at becoming a lawyer on a national level but rather, on a global and intercontinental level, because justice transcends any physical boundaries. As a result, I decided traveling a long distance to study in The Netherlands, albeit a suspension of my Bachelor’s program of Commercial Law in Vietnam. It was a difficult choice because Vietnam is where I had spent twenty years of my life and studying abroad costs a huge sum of money, yet I quit the study there and moved to a strange and faraway place. Nonetheless, until present, I never regret what I chose because the educational quality in Europe is considered best in the world and in respect of that, I have more academic freedom and more chance of establishing network with international citizens than in Vietnam. It helps me a lot in defining who I am and who I want to be, unlike the time when I was in Vietnam and had no idea what I genuinely wanted to do after finishing the Commercial Law degree. Studying abroad requires me step out of my comfort zone, be more proactive and independent. Those characteristics have supported me to survive the past two years in The Netherlands and will assist me, I believe, to develop myself more in the Master’s stage. Such persistent thoughts encourage me to further pursue a Master’s degree in Europe to comprehend on a broader scale how the laws in different jurisdictions work to bring about efficient function of the legal systems. After graduation, I would like to work at a multinational corporation and provide it with legal advice on investments, international commercial contracts or perhaps, matters relating to patent and intellectual property. However, being a non European means I am required to pay the tuition fee which exceeds my budget. After the three-year program in The Netherlands, my family cannot afford to pay for my Master’s studies. Besides, finding a part time job as well as maintaining it while studying is not a wise choice if I am admitted to the program. The scholarship, for that reason, is a valuable resource that will keep me more focused in order to be completely devoted to my research and studies. Thus, I hope that University of Helsinki will consider me as a promising applicant for the full scholarship that covers the tuition fee and living costs. In that case, I will be capable of contributing better to the diversity of the program, and building up my profile more robustly for career prospects.

**e) Outline your academic interests in the chosen field, i.e. indicate what you see as being a potential topic of your Master's thesis and how your specific research interests relate to this Master's Programme**.

With satisfactory foundations prepared for more advanced private-law courses during my Master’s, I am eager to gain more insight in the field of trade law, contract law, real- estate law, company law, intellectual property law and competition law. If possible, I desire to carry out more extensive research on how multinational corporations' investments, by means of an economic development scheme or blight-cleansing plan, in a host state, e.g. Vietnam, can affect the domestic legal definition of compulsory takings. The ramification of such a definition can lead to what constitutes just compensation and what amount is considered as fair. Another alternative that I want to research more thoroughly is what problems often incur in case of harmonisation of international commercial law and finding solutions to them; the UNCITRAL, which I can pay attention to, is an example of a unifying instrument of international commercial law.