

Rory Dam

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Letter of Motivation

Dear Selection Committee,

My name is Rory Dam and I am a student at the University of Amsterdam enrolled in the Masters Information Science; Data Science track. I will be working on my Masters thesis full time for 12 weeks during the second semester of academic year 2023/2024. I am writing to express my interest in pursuing the master internship: "Where to (not) cross the street?". I have always been fascinated by the power of data to reveal insights that are not obvious to the naked eye and know that by working on this internship I will enable myself to delve deeper into the field of data science and simultaneously make a meaningful contribution to society.

The core focus of this internship, identifying and assessing accessible crossings, particularly the availability of curb ramps, traffic lights, and zebra crossings, resonates deeply with my interest in data analysis and model development. I am eager to assist in defining, and implementing the necessary metrics to evaluate the accessibility of crossings, ultimately contributing to the creation of network graphs for accessible route planning. Besides the model development, I am excited about contributing to the creation of an accessible route planner, a project that caters to the unique needs of citizens who require accessible routes. I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to work on both the underlying model and the accessible route planner itself. This dual involvement in model development and the practical application of the route planner resonates with my passion for turning data-driven insights into tangible solutions that enhance the lives of individuals in our community.

What excites me the most about this internship is its direct and tangible impact on the lives of citizens. The results will be integrated into the PEER project, an EU-funded research initiative where accessible route planning is a key use case. Knowing that my work will contribute to improving accessibility and inclusivity is a significant motivator for me.

In conclusion, I am enthusiastic about the possibility of working on this challenging and socially relevant project. I am confident that my academic background, passion for data science, and eagerness to learn and contribute will make me a valuable addition to your team. I look forward to the opportunity to collaborate with the City of Amsterdam to enhance the safety and accessibility of Amsterdam. Thank you for considering my application, and I look forward to the chance to discuss my potential contributions in more detail.

Yours sincerely,

Rory Dam