

PhD Program Application Letter

Dear Members of the Admission Committee,

My name is Jiale He, and I am writing to formally submit my application for the PhD program in Economics at Duke University. Backed by a robust academic foundation and a sustained commitment to advancing knowledge in this field, I am confident that my academic rigor, research potential, and proactive mindset align well with the high standards of your esteemed institution.

My academic focus has long been rooted in Economics, a direction I have refined through coursework, independent research initiatives, and academic exchanges. To stay updated on the latest advancements in this domain, I regularly engage with flagship scholarly publications, including *American Economic Review*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, and *Journal of Political Economy*. These readings not only deepen my understanding of core theories and emerging methodologies but also inspire critical questions—ones I am eager to explore through original research under the guidance of Duke University's faculty.

In terms of technical competence, I have built solid proficiency in Statistical Analysis (SPSS, SAS), Econometric Modeling, Data Visualization (Tableau, Power BI), Python/R Programming, Macroeconomic Forecasting through hands-on experience in academic projects and internships. These capabilities have directly supported my research practice, enabling me to address complex challenges effectively. I am particularly motivated to further polish these skills through the rigorous, research-oriented curriculum offered by your program.

What particularly resonates with me about Duke University is its unparalleled standing as a leader in Economics—a reputation shaped by groundbreaking faculty work, state-of-the-art research facilities, and a collaborative academic community. Moreover, the program's focus on bridging theoretical innovation with real-world impact mirrors my own academic values. This alignment strengthens my desire to join your community, as it directly supports my goal of advancing Economics in meaningful, practical ways.

My long-term career objective is to pursue a career as a researcher in Economics, either in an academic setting or a research-driven organization. In this role, I aim to leverage advanced methodologies to solve pressing industry or societal issues. I am convinced that the PhD program in Economics at your institution will equip me with the necessary theoretical depth, hands-on research experience, and professional network to turn this goal into reality.

Thank you for considering my application. I am eager to bring my ideas and efforts to Duke University's vibrant academic community while growing as a researcher under your program's guidance. I look forward to the possibility of further discussing my application and how I can add value to your team.

Sincerely,

Jiale He