As I sat inside the new office from my recent promotion at HP, solving an internal search content issue for the fourth time that month, I found myself going through the motions, wondering where the joy from the better paying job had seeped, and then, in a moment of sudden clarity, I knew: I had stopped facing new challenges. I was no longer learning.

At the “Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey” I was fortunate enough to count with the mentorship of PhD Gildardo Sánchez Ante with whom I chose to undertake a research internship at the University's state of the art Motion Capture laboratory. The purpose of the research was to analyse the precision of the equipment in order to determine whether partnerships with local hospitals would prove beneficial by bettering the diagnosis of patients with disabilities and thus, helping the hospitals provide a more appropriate treatment. The result was a collection of interesting data for the hospital boards to audit. Unfortunately, bureaucratic hurdles eventually thwarted the furtherment of this project.

Towards the end of my undergraduate studies I got the chance to develop a license plate recognition software, a project that I particularly enjoyed due to the fact that I was able to combine previous knowledge and research with pragmatism. I concocted a cross breed between backpropagation neural networks and kohonen maps with the purpose of examining the effect that a set of prerecorded associations between letters and numbers (in the kohonen map) would have in the learning speed and accuracy of the neural network. As a result, the time it took the system to reach the cusp of the learning curve, and consequently achieve a state of reliable results was reduced to half. The net effect that it had on me was much greater, though. It gave me a realistic sense of what applying cutting edge knowledge into a software development process entailed and I also got to enjoy the sensation of stoking a flame inside myself; a sensation that I have only ever attained through curiosity stemming into discovery and achievement. I knew then that this was an experience I wanted to repeat throughout my career.

Upon my graduation I was able to obtain a job in software development at HP, working at the intranet search department for the 300, 000 HP employees. Before long, I realized that the workloads between the software development and the quality assurance teams were cyclic and alternated, so I decided to volunteer to help ease QA workload while it was at its peak since it coincided with my workload being at its nadir. I got to learn things like test case development and software testing automation as well as tools like Jmeter for web load testing and Quality Test Pro for automation, but more importantly, it gave me a different perspective to software development. I have since then, tried to incorporate that mindset to my projects through unit testing and test driven development.

I then got more involved in the indexing process of the Internal Search tool. There, I had my first encounter with the Python programming language. I soon fell in love with it and decided to learn on my own. Within a year I was put in charge of all the Python development for Internal Search and given the title of "Python expert" within the team.

As I continued through my path of learning new skills and facing new challenges at HP, I was offered the position of Integration Consultant, which encompassed a greater paycheck and fewer headaches from technical difficulties. I joyously accepted. However, I soon realized that it came at the cost of the everyday challenges to which I had grown so fond and the learning they demand. It was at this time that I left HP and decided I needed to take a step back and think very carefully about the path towards which I wanted to steer my career.

During my hiatus from work I was involved in an accident that resulted in a surgery and a six month rehabilitation time-lapse that made my absence from the work force longer than I had originally anticipated, but that also gave me a new vantage point, originated from staying still in a world where everything seems so urgent and one is always busy. During this period I decided that it was time for me to go back out there and try to make a difference in the world so I got my current job developing software for small businesses at a startup company called Messoft, while at the same time I started a long process of searching for learning opportunities that would be both challenging and motivating for me.

Closing paragraph where I mention the reasons for choosing to apply to this program at this University (tailored to each of the Universities) goes here.