

## **Personal Statement**

I completed high school with a gold medal (Highest Distinction) and gained one of the highest scores on the National test, which is a required test after completion of high school in our country. After high school, I won the International Bolashak Scholarship of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which provides an excellent opportunity to the citizens of Kazakhstan to study at the world's top universities. In 2011 I was accepted to the University of Toronto, Canada, and successfully completed Bachelors Degree in Computer Science with Honors in 2015. After graduation I returned back to Kazakhstan, to apply the obtained precious knowledge to the prosperity of my country. I am not a lucky person, and I would not say I am extremely ambitious; all I know is that each of my achievements was gained by my hard work. I deeply believe that most of the successes in people's lives are due to persistence, dedication and hard work, work on time management, on personal weaknesses, and on strong will.

During the years of undergraduate studies, I chose courses which were particularly interesting to me, such as Artificial Intelligence, Natural Language Processing, and Computer Networks. In the final year, I worked on a team project "Beehive", which was closely supervised by our university professor. For the project, we had a basic implementation of a software-based network application, and we needed to come up with a real-world application of it, and also to implement its design scheme. Also, we made the metrics of its performance in terms of various patterns, and time performance, by creating tests with different scenarios. Moreover, we measured the application's CPU/memory usage and latency and made possible explanations for the obtained results. While working on that project I went beyond the scope of course materials, and on top of the knowledge and experience I received from that project, I learned different professional approaches used in research work in the sphere of Computer Science.

After graduation, I worked in two places. First of them is British independent school Haileybury, located in Astana. At Haileybury, I was a manager in IT department and worked with the school software, which is used to keep and manage all the data of the school (information about students, parents and staff, students' grades, and general information, etc). Since I moved to another city, I changed my job, where I worked at an educational centre as a manager of IT department. Apart from professional experience, I learned to work with colleagues, and explain the technical concepts in understandable language for people with no technical background.

I am a social and open person, and I like working and communicating with people. During my undergraduate years at the University of Toronto, I had different team projects and assignments, where I worked in various teams of two, three, and more people. From that experience, I know that working in a team is an important and necessary skill, and it prepares students for industry, where they work and communicate with many colleagues with different backgrounds. I also volunteered at different events and conferences during my undergraduate years. Thanks to volunteering, I made lots of new friends, and it also helped me be more communicative and sociable.

I know that obtaining MSc degree in Computer Science will be priceless importance to me as it will give me a way to become a better specialist in the field of my interest. As I already mentioned, I believe that any significant work, which is done by strong dedication, will lead to achievement; and I have no doubt that all the courses provided by your university as well as

research experience will lead to success in my career path. I strongly believe that Nazarbayev University provides the students with all the necessary knowledge to complete a qualitative degree. In the near future, I would like to work in the relevant sphere, where I will be able to apply the priceless experience and knowledge which I will gain after completing the postgraduate degree from Nazarbayev University.

**Assylay Sainova**