Statement of purpose

Víctor Javier Martínez Hernández

Aim high. These two words, although clichéd sometimes, exactly represent what my life has looked like recently. During the last decade, my experiences, goals and professional dreams have changed radically. To me "aim high" has meant going from working alone on my computer at a dimly lighted Starbucks in Mexico City to working on the implementation of several flight simulators, having an office with a few employees, directing a company respected by many loyal clients, and leading a team of fifty people to transform a decommissioned Boeing 737 into a library for low-income people in a marginalized neighborhood.

Aim high also means change, adaptability, having an open mind and being willing to learn new things. My career has been that. I couldn't possibly find better words to describe what I do and how I think. When I was very young, my father enrolled me in a computer programming course, but then, when he saw how much I loved it, he decided to stop paying for my classes. My dad's dream was to have a son who would, like him, study business administration, not engineering. So, I decided to work as a waiter to continue paying for my IBM course. Later, drawn by the burgeoning Mexican film industry, I decided to pursue an undergraduate degree in Media Production. But programming and my love for computers never left me…

I never pursued a professional career in the field of communication. Instead, since 2008, I've been working as an IT developer and technical solutions advisor for some companies, and, from 2011 onwards, as an independent contractor. I started building websites, but I always wanted to go beyond, to learn more, to aim high. In 2016, a friend asked me to start a new adventure: he wanted me to help him develop flight simulators for aviation schools. In just two years, we launched our very own flight simulator hardware. Later, I helped with the code of the IoT modules and we built two additional simulators, one that can train professional pilots and another one for recreation in an actual decommissioned 737. Now I'm building my own library in Python in order to connect our hardware with Xplane software. I hope to finish it this year and patent it as soon as possible.

During all these years, I've learned a lot about IT, software development, Python, AI, and Big Data thanks to a large number of prestigious online courses. They have been a great option because as an entrepreneur I'm constantly having different workloads and sometimes travelling is necessary, if conditions and clients demand it. So, to me, the MSc offered by the University of Essex is absolutely perfect. When I found this option I immediately knew it was exactly the program I had been looking for. This course is a great opportunity to further enhance my career as a programmer because it entails getting a certification from a prestigious institution.

What I now want is to build a solid preparation that will allow me to get better business opportunities or maybe an academic position. Some years ago I thought that having academic credentials was not necessary to build a good name in the industry, but later I found out that the best jobs and contracts are for people who have many credentials and specializations. Pursuing this MSc at Essex is a major step toward reaching my goals.