

Respected Madam/ Sir,

A part of me has always aspired to be a quantitative analyst. My adolescence was marked by a ceaseless quest for knowledge, skill, expression, and experience. As a child, I was fascinated by analytical subjects, specifically Mathematics; however, I was oblivious to professional international exposure, thereby not knowing what my interest meant in the big picture.

To pursue my passion, I not only took advanced Mathematical courses in high school but also participated in international competitions supported by NASA- ARSSDC (India) and ISSDC (USA)- where I met equally enthusiastic diverse individuals. Winning accolades at these prestigious competitions while working as an engineer in a multi-cultured environment burgeoned my curiosity. Consequently, instead of studying in my home country, I decided to pursue a bachelor's degree in Electrical and Electronics engineering at one of the most reputable institutions in Turkey, Bilkent University, where I received a full-ride scholarship based on my past academic and extra-curricular accomplishments.

At Bilkent, I took a plethora of Math and code-intensive elective courses such as EEE 446/546- Control and optimization of Stochastic systems, CS 461- Artificial intelligence, EEE 442/542- Non-linear Systems, and IE 400- Engineering Management in addition to the mandatory EEE courses in my curriculum. Throughout my undergraduate education, I have completed various projects in different programming languages, such as using Python to solve the New York Times crossword puzzle and find the optimal solution of an Integer programming model, Assembly programming language to build a statistical calculator, as well as various projects in Matlab.

I have also been heavily involved in extracurricular activities during my time at Bilkent. I am the co-founder and writer of a student magazine called humans of Bilkent. I was part of the South Asian Cultural Club and helped to organize the Bilkent International festival, an event that showcases culture, traditions, food, and performances of numerous countries. Moreover, I am also an avid footballer and have received silver medals at a couple of Intra-university football tournaments.

Throughout my life, I have been able to successfully balance my co-curricular life and fondness of traveling with academics, and never lost sight of my career ambition of becoming a Quant. Pursuing a Master's degree in Actuarial and Financial Engineering from KU Leuven will help me acquire the relevant skills, such as experience with SQL and R programming, knowledge of statistical analysis, and its use in maintaining and modifying financial models, that are pivotal for succeeding as a quant in the modern age. The curriculum of this graduate program at KU Leuven will help me achieve the expertise I desire.

For further details, please refer to my CV, Transcript or reach out for an interview.

Regards,
Muhammad Ali Khaqan