

Letter of Motivation:

With this letter, I hereby wish to state my interest in applying for a Research Master's degree program in Social Psychology at the Vrije University in Amsterdam.

An interest in social and humanistic subjects has been vivid in me for a long time. Therefore, I decided on a two-course bachelor's study of sociology and philosophy at the Faculty of Arts at the University of Ljubljana. During my studies, I acquired a lot of useful knowledge on statistics, various research methodologies, religions, cultures, ideologies, social norms as well as the influence of the latter on individuals and vice versa. I learned how to conduct research, set a research question and hypotheses, select the methodology, and how to report and interpret the results. I also gained international experience within the framework of Erasmus exchange, by studying for six months at the Faculdade de Letras at the University of Lisbon.

I finished my undergraduate studies in June 2019 with the bachelor's thesis 'The Role of Religion in the Historical Development of Tibet' for which I received the highest grade and an invitation by the head of the sociology department to enrol in further master studies. I did not decide for the latter, preferring instead to test my knowledge in practice and gain valuable work experience. Nevertheless, after a year of work I have realized I wish to dedicate my life's journey to academic studying, teaching and researching of different nations, ideologies, cultures, societies, habits and individuals. I would like to explore and research questions such as why and how different socio-cultural ideas and political systems influence our actions, values, habits, social roles, interpersonal relations and emotions? How is the emergence of xenophobia, intolerance, hatred and genocide possible if we, as human beings, by nature ought to be solidary and altruistic?

To start my path towards answering those questions I have decided to deepen my present knowledge and specialize within the field of Social Psychology at what I hope will be your University. In addition to the research orientation, smaller, interconnected, interdisciplinary and multicultural group, my attention has been drawn by your curriculum and the courses such as 'Bridging Social Psychology', 'Evolutionary Processes in Social Behaviour', 'Motivation and Emotion' and more. Of course, a possibility to do researches and experiments and to have our own study lab for use with assistance from mentors has contributed my decision significantly, as well as the reputation and the renown of your university. Because I am an enthusiastic sportsman, an additional motive is also a varied sports program and the city of Amsterdam alone with its authenticity, architecture, river channels and many different aspects of diverse social life.

I am confident I am the right choice for your program because I am a hard-working, dedicated and ambitious individual with a clear goal which I am determined to achieve. I hope that my qualifications and educational experiences will meet your requirements and I believe that I would be of value as a part of the study program.

Thank you for considering my application.

Yours faithfully,

Gašper Pavlin