Personal Story

It was always my dream to come to the United States since I was a kid. Actually, in my room I had a poster on a wall of New York with lyrics from the legendary song of „New York, New York" by Frank Sinatra. It was a dream. But. Since I watched Cartoon Network, all the movies in English as well and even did some placements to improve my English at Bath in the United Kingdom. However. That was during school, which when last year came of the school I had to decide where I wanted, or may I say, apply where everyone applied. So, I applied to the University of Edinburgh and got accepted for an undergraduate degree.

I started it in 2009 doing Biochemistry but then realized that majority of it is biological sciences rather than Chemistry which I loved since school but did apply not to it but as everyone in my class did to Medicine and Biochemistry. After a year doing Biochemistry degree, I realized I do not like it one bit and changed it to Chemistry from second year onwards. Also, what I did I changed my undergraduate degree to undergraduate with Master's in Chemistry rather than Bachelor's in Biochemistry, but little did I know that life had other plans for me.

So, I was on a placement in Grenoble at France when I got electrocution leading to a month in a coma. When I recovered, I got back to studies in Edinburgh straight away. No change to my intellectual capacities was made resulting in 2013 being rewarded with an award as the best student in Organic Chemistry labs that I did through fall of 2012 but later - during the 2012-2013 academic year I got a horrific brain injury on January 13 of 2013. Again a month in a coma. After recovering and coming back to finish the degree from September of 2013 I showed that my academic capabilities were fantastic before the second trauma while receiving an award in September 2013 for what I did in 2012-2013 academic year. But. My academic capabilities after returning to 13-14 academic year seems to have declined resulting from being a top student in labs to graduating in 2015 with a second tier degree.

During my time at the University of Edinburgh, I won not only an award but also each summer won placements at state-of-the-art research institutions to do Neuroscience and Chemistry research. During last year in Edinburgh and after graduation I realized I wanted to work with computers, but did not have a mathematical background, so I enrolled in a doctoral program at Vilnius University where I recovered from my injuries resulting in a GPA of 3.8 when taking doctoral exams. It is a show case that my academic abilities were yet intact, returned.

However, as I studied in Vilnius, I was also battling past trauma effects giving also unwanted depression, suicidal and loneliness side effects that I recently started a blog of Transcend Loneliness about - https://substack.com/@aurimasaleksandras - where I post once or twice a month now even though did each week when started. But. Back to graduate studies.

During graduate studies at Vilnius University, I dropped out because of three things. First, I realized that this research project in Biochemistry was not my calling. Second, health issues slowed my mental capacities as I wanted more and more to try myself in industry and third I realized I want to gain a degree in Computer Science to do ground breaking research on CS to compliment my chemistry.

So, I made a plan to apply now. The plan came into fruition after dropping out and particularly from 2022 to get myself into the United States while doing research in Computer Science, however I did not know what I wanted to do. So, here my job history since 2022 in data engineering, teaching, consulting, and a deep dive into the world of artificial intelligence and computer science through following top minds in these fields and posting my thoughts about them on X (previously Twitter), LinkedIn and my AI/chemistry newsletter's blog crystallized a thought of what I want to achieve at MIT.

I aspire to work with the best minds in Computer Science and Healthcare to do research on AGI and healthcare combining my chemistry background at MIT but am ready to postpone work towards achieving that goal while doing a research project for a PhD degree in one of the amazing research groups and work on my aim after graduating from MIT.

That's me in a nutshell and why I aspire to do a PhD in MIT. Thank you for listening to me babbling about me and why I aim to do research in MIT.