

Personal statement Danilo Aristizabal

Hi there!

I grew up in Cali, Colombia. I have one brother older than me and one sister younger, I am just in the middle. I love all members of my family and I really had an enjoyable childhood with my siblings. Since I was a child, God has played a very important role in my life. I loved going to camps with friends from different cities of Colombia and we enjoyed playing soccer and going to swimming pool after soccer games. When I was in high school I was a little bit shy, I liked to study a lot, especially chemistry and math. When I was 15 I started to play table tennis, I won some championships in Cali and when I was 16 I started to play at the national level in several competitions. I traveled to different cities to compete, and although I never won any championship at the national level, I really enjoyed that journey. After finishing high school I began studying accounting in Valle university in Cali and then I traveled to Bogota to finish my studies in Accounting and Economics at National University of Colombia. Then I went to Spain to make a master in Economic Analysis in University Carlos III of Madrid. I knew people with different countries and with different backgrounds in economics and other sciences, and it was a very enriching experience. I took several courses in econometrics, macro and microeconomics there, and I really enjoyed the macro courses and the applied econometrics. I came back to Colombia in 2018 and I decided to start my Phd studies in Economics in Andes university.

Right now, I am a second year Phd student from economics at Andes University. I am interested in the functioning and structure of labor markets. Right now I am working in my second year paper entitled: "Payroll taxes, wage rigidities and youth unemployment: evidence from the labor market in Colombia". I love playing soccer and table tennis and I also like difficult mountain excursions. In a typical day of my life I make meditation after I wake up, then I make some sport,

usually half an hour, and then I take my breakfast. After that, I check social media and define my objectives for the day divided into: studying, working and talking with my family and friends.

I began interested in economics after I took a course in macroeconomics in National University of Colombia. I wanted to learn how markets work, especially labor markets and how I can help to contribute to solve so many problems that Colombian Society was facing by 2012, especially the education reform that was taking place.

I expect to learn a lot from this course, especially from impact evaluation analysis. I also want to learn different tools to design and implement very good empirical research.

In my nearly future, one year after now, I hope the pandemic situation is under control, so I can back spare time outside my house and have fun with my friends. I also hope that by that time my research have advanced enough so I can make my intership in a good university either from US or Europe. In five years I plan to be already married with my girlfriend and have finished my Phd studies. And finally in ten years I hope to be working in an economics department of a university of Colombia or Latin America and have two or three children.