Since I was young I have always been a problem solver. I never liked to complain about problems and dwell on them but rather to try and solve them or to move on if that’s not an option. When I was choosing my education for University studies I looked at a lot of fields, mostly in engineering and technology. I had always been intrigued in technology and even though I was the youngest in the family I was always the go-to person to set up or to fix the gadgets at the house. When I came across programming I noticed right away that it was ideal for me to study. It requires you to think rationalistic, solve problem and is of course deeply involved with technology. Even more, after I started programming, I found out that I had a side I never knew of, a creational side. I saw the endless possibilities to create almost whatever you can imagine, and that was the ultimate thing that hooked me to programming. In the past three years studying Software Engineering I have learned countless new things and certainly found the place where I belong. I wanted more students to know about the possibility of studying Software Engineering so I’ve been taking part in introducing the field to possible students with the department’s professors. I also took part with the department’s student union to publish our first magazine, called ‘The Code’, for young people to get to know the studies and for professionals to see what’s new and upcoming in the field in Iceland. The magazine is essentially a fundraiser for an educational trip to Tokyo for the graduating students in Software Engineering and Computer Science where I’m planning visits for the group to various software companies. I’ve also come to enjoy to pass on knowledge to others but I’ve been working as an Assistant Teacher for the last year in the courses Computer Science 1 and Software Development. In Computer Science 1 I had a group of 40 people where I graded their assignments and gave short lectures every week. In Software Development I’m more of a project owner and leader. I wrote a 10-week project for my 30 students (divided into 4-person groups) and meet with them every week to guide them on the project. It has been a rewarding experience to take part in a group project from a whole other perspective than being one of the developers on the team. It has given me a good oversight on project development and helped me both as a developer and as a leader.

I’m very ambitious about my studies and I want to get a good education to be as well prepared as possible for projects and jobs in the future. TU Delft is one of the leading engineering and technology schools in Europe and has a great Computer Science department.The school has a good reputation regarding research which is important when choosing a school to conduct my thesis work. My step sister took a part of her Master’s degree in engineering in TU Delft and was extremely pleased with the school which motivated me even more to apply for my Master’s degree here. TU Delft offers a wide selection of Computer Science courses. There are actually several specialisations within the Software Technology Track that I’d be interested in taking, for example Network Architecture and Services, Parallel and Distributed Systems, Software Engineering and Web Information Systems. I like everything about designing and building complex systems so I find all these specialisations exciting. What I’ve enjoyed the most in my studies is learning how to structure good code and design a good program. How to have code readable, reuseable, efficient and testable. How good developing methods ensure that you achieve all previously stated goals. I would like to continue studying this subject, how to structure programs in the best possible way. For that reason, I’m applying for Master of Science, Computer Science, The Software Technology Track with specialisation in Software Engineering.

Looking at the available projects at TU Delft’s website I find many topics to be very interesting, both internal projects and international internships. I find the Code Clone Management project exciting because I find good code structure very interesting. To be able to link clone codes definitely has usability and I’d like to participate in extending the CloneBoard functionality. I find the Mining Software Repositories project to be really interesting as well. In software development it can sometimes be difficult for participants to have complete oversight of every aspect in the development process. It is therefore extremely helpful to use a versioning system to notice coupling or bad habits in development. I’m very interested in participating in evolving this functionality even further. Furthermore, it’s intriguing to do an international internship as well. It would be a great opportunity to get to work with a company like Google and take part in their impressive work. I believe that whether I take part in an internal project at TU Delft or do an international internship, I would invest great effort and gain an important and lifelong experience.

In my Bachelors studies in Software Engineering in the University of Iceland it’s not customary to do a final assignment. We do have two big projects in our last year, one in each semester, but they are not official final assignments. They’re 6 ECTS each and last for 3-4 months. We did an Android application for both semesters and while programming it we learn about the whole process of software development. We study agile methods, design, testing, measuring, refactoring, quality management, software architecture and many other aspects of software development. My group consisted of four girls and each group could choose their own project. The first semester we did an application which served as a scheduler for television watchers. The main reason for choosing this project was to learn how to build a good program around a web service where we got all of our information from. The application we are working on this semester is an educational game for children where they try to answer questions as fast as they can. For this application we’re focusing on making the user experience as good as it can be. In both of these project I’ve done backend programming, for example doing the client for the web services and doing the logic behind each level in the game. We spend about 16 hours per week on the project since we have all our other courses in school as well. We are a very hardworking group and we really enjoy working on a big project so we put a lot of effort in to it. The hard work resulted in us being one of the best groups, according to our professor, with one of the two highest grades for the project which was 9,9 (out of 10). I’m really looking forward to doing a bigger project where I can devote my whole time on it like with my Master’s thesis.

Last summer I had the chance to work full-time as a programmer for an Icelandic start-up company called Bókun ehf. They have an online software which serves as a booking and supply system for travel companies.There I worked on additions to the software and on integration with other systems. My projects included both backend and frontend work using SQL, Java, Scala, HTML, CSS and Javascript. It was a great experience to work on such a big software and to be a part of a up-and-coming start-up company. For this summer, I’ll be working as an Android Developer for an Icelandic company called Plain Vanilla. It’s the fastest growing software company in Iceland but they’re behind the world-wide popular trivia game called QuizUp. I’m extremely excited to start working for this progressive company and to add on more experience under my belt.

Being a female in the software industry hasn’t always been easy. You constantly have to face doubts about your capabilities from people in the software industry. Because of that and more reasons, I constantly want to gather more knowledge and experience. Furthermore, having grown up in a small country like Iceland I’ve always had the urge to explore new things and sometime to live abroad. It would be great to have the opportunity to study at TU Delft and receive the education and experience that I desire. I find the courses and Master’s projects that the school offers to be extremely interesting. I would invest all my time and effort in to the Master’s program and try to do my absolute best.