Since I was young I have always been a problem solver. I never like 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 have 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 rational thinking, problem solving and deep involvement with technology. Furthermore, after I started programming, I found out that I had a side I never knew, a creative side. I saw the endless possibilities to create almost anything you can imagine, and that was ultimately what hooked me on programming. In the past three years of studying Software Engineering I have learned countless new things and certainly found the place where I belong. I want 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 helped the department’s student union publish our first magazine, called ‘The Code’, designed to help young people get to know the studies and to let professionals see what’s new and upcoming in the field in Iceland. Funds from the magazine sales will help pay for an educational trip for graduating students in Software Engineering and Computer Science to visit Tokyo, where I’m planning visits for the group to various software companies. I truly enjoy passing on knowledge to others so I’ve been working as an Assistant Teacher for the last year in Computer Science 1 and Software Development. In Computer Science I had a group of 40 students for whom I reviewed and graded their assignments and gave short lectures every week. In Software Development I’m more of a project owner and leader. I designed a 10-week project for my 30 students (divided into 4-person groups) and I meet with them every week to guide them through the project. It has been a rewarding experience and has provided a whole different perspective taking part in a group project vs. being one of the developers on the team. It has given me good oversight on project development and helped me learn both as a developer and as a leader.

I am very ambitious about my studies and I want to further my education to be as 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 an excellent reputation regarding research, which is important when choosing a school to conduct my thesis work. My step sister completed part of her Master’s degree in engineering at 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, e.g. 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 most in my studies is learning how to structure good working code and design functional programs, i.e. how to have code readable, reuseable, efficient and testable, and 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 am 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 am 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 at the University of Iceland it is not customary to do a final assignment. We have two big projects in our last year, one in each semester, but they are not official final assignments. They are 6 ECTS each and last for 3-4 months. We did an Android application for both semesters, and while programming it, we learned about the whole process of software development. We studied agile methods, design, testing, measuring, refactoring, quality management, software architecture and many other aspects of software development. My group consisted of 4 girls and each group chose 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 functioning program around a web service. 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 projects I’ve done backend programming, e.g., creating the client for web services and performing the logic behind each level in the game. We spend about 16 hours per week on the project while we participate in other courses also. We are a very hardworking group who really enjoys working on big projects so we put a lot of effort into it. Our hard work resulted in us receiving one of the two highest grades for the project which was 9,9 (out of 10) and I’m really looking forward to working on bigger projects where I can devote my energy and efforts such as 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 online software which serves as a booking and supply system for travel companies. There I worked on software additions and system integration. 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 application 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 worldwide popular trivia game called QuizUp. I’m extremely excited to start working for this progressive company and to gain such valuable experience.

Being a female in the software industry has not always been easy. Because of that, I have a strong desire to constantly gather more knowledge and experience and to keep my skills up to date. 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. I would be thrilled 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 inviting. I hope you find I am a qualified and enthusiastic applicant deserving of admission to your program. If given the opportunity, I would invest all my time and energy into the Master’s program in order to do my absolute best.