

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing this motivation letter to express my interest in Summer@EPFL. I am Elif Cemre, a third-year Computer Science and Engineering student at Sabancı University in Istanbul, Turkey.

During my high school years, I mainly studied mathematics and science. At the end of high school, I entered University Entrance Exam known as YKS in 2018 and I was 742nd among 2.5 million students. I knew that I want to pursue a career in the engineering field however I was not sure what type of engineering I want to study. After long research, I decided on Sabancı University which provides the chance to take introductory courses from different areas and then declare your major.

When I was a freshman, I took Computational Approaches to Problem Solving with Python and Introduction to Computing with C++ courses, and I decided that I love coding although I had no coding experience before. Afterward, I took other advanced programming courses and more specialized courses such as Data Science, Artificial Intelligence, and Machine Learning. I took part in group projects such as E-commerce web and mobile applications, American Sign Language Classifier competition using different transfer learning models like VGG16 and Resnet. Besides learning new technologies and modules, these projects helped me to gain the ability of time management and teamwork. I plan to take data science-related courses next semester as an exchange student at Mälardalen University in Sweden as well.

As my interests, I took Database Systems and Software Engineering courses and developed E-commerce web sites as a back-end developer. Also, I did my internships mainly on the back-end side at Akbank (one of the biggest banks in Turkey) and OBSS (a company providing software to clients). The more I work with back-end development, the more I like it. However, I see internships as opportunities to discover what I like more. Therefore, I also want to do an internship in the area of machine learning as well so that I can decide on my career path better. I am aware that I like recognizing patterns and relationships in data and visualizing the data. Currently, I am interested in Natural Language Processing, I am taking an online course on Coursera to learn the basics of NLP and visual recognition.

The reason that made me apply for Summer@EPFL is that I have worked on the back-end side and seen the business life in my previous internships. Now, I want to try another subject that I am interested in which is ML. Also, I want to do my internship at a university to discover whether business life or academic life is more suitable for me. I expect my next internship to guide me on what field I should progress in and what to do after my graduation in terms of starting a master's program or working at a company. EPFL is a great opportunity for that because besides that it is one of the top 20 universities in the world, it provides the chance to study with great professors and scientists who are one of the bests in their domains. The president of my university Yusuf Leblebici was a professor at EPFL, I heard from him first-hand that how they care about education and research. Also, it has high student satisfaction and international student rates and I think this will ease my adaptation process. There are students who are graduated from my university and doing their master's or Ph.D. degrees at EPFL, I always admire them. Another reason is that it is almost impossible for me to do an internship abroad without a scholarship or a grant because of the exchange rate of the Turkish lira. Therefore, the living allowance given could be very helpful for me.

To conclude, I think this fellowship program at EPFL would be a great chance for me in terms of studying with very successful professors, stepping out of my comfort zone, and discovering a new culture and country full of natural wonders.

Thank you for going through my application.