

## 1 Question 1

Question 1: What are your personal and academic reasons for wishing to participate in this Dialogue of Civilizations program?

Personally, I have always wanted to visit intellectual high points in other countries. For the most part, when I visit a new country, I travel with my family and together, we visit the standard tourist locations. We walk the walk, and we see the sights. For example, when I visited Dubai for a week, I saw many attractions, which include the Burj Khalifa, Burj Al Arab, the man-made palm islands, the famous indoor ski slope in the Mall of the Emirates. While all of these sights were fascinating, and enjoyable to watch, not once did I experience the brilliant intellectual legacy that the Arabs left us. I did not see a single university, or museum, or place of learning. I marveled in the standard views that every other person who walked my footsteps had seen. I wanted something more. I wanted to see the tools that early Arab astronomers used to follow the movements of the celestial bodies. I wanted to see the books that early mathematicians wrote to explain the concept of zero. I yearned to appreciate the contributions that these early intellectuals allowed us to come so far. This is something that I hope this trip to Italy will help me to achieve. We will visit places like the Museum of Computational Tools and Fondazione Scienza e Technica. Both of which places that represent and portray significant human intellectual advancements.

I also wish to experience the culture of this country without that layer of tourist clouding my vision. When I typically visit another country, I typically only stay for a week. That is not enough time to develop a schedule to incorporate leisure time to truly *live* in that country. To talk with the locals, learn from them. That is what I believe it means to truly experience a new culture.

## 2 Question 2

Question 2: How will the program further your academic and career goals?

## 3 Question 3

Question 3: What is your previous travel and language experience, if any?

## 4 Question 4

Question 4: What courses have you taken which are directly relevant to the program?