# Personal Statement

Two years ago my 3 best friends and I made a pact: come to the U.S., learn as much as we can, connect with people from all over, develop ourselves professionally, and then return to Argentina to help our country attain sustainable growth.

My first step was to pursue technical training at Rice University. However, I have come to realize its culture is not the best fit for me. To reach my goals, I need an atmosphere like Harvard’s, with a balance between students who are passionate about technological innovation *and* who are anxious to materialize their innovations through startups.

Harvard also has a larger Latin American student community, meaning I will have more chances to connect with classmates who know firsthand what life is like in the region and who share my commitment to improving conditions there. Moreover, Harvard offers more financial aid to international students, which would alleviate the financial stress my family is experiencing due to Argentina's inflation and economic instability.

While working remotely during my gap year for Romulus Capital, a VC firm in Boston, I had the chance to collaborate on new-generation GIS startups and on an analysis of top performing construction tech companies with various Harvard students and alumni. Witnessing their expertise and insight, I realized Harvard would be the best place for me.

The other influential factor was a research article I came across in the HBR Store from 2012, comparing Startup Chile with an up-and-coming version of Silicon Valley within South America. I want to be in a place that a decade ago was already able to recognize the value of Latin American accelerators and entrepreneurs and what they can do for the region and the world. I can’t wait to join the Harvard College Ventures and live out its vision “to connect, collaborate, and innovate.”

I want to become involved in an ecosystem that believes in its students and provides so much support to companies incubated at the university, like WHOOP and CarePort Health. The access to thousands of alumni in the VC/startup space will accelerate my development as an entrepreneur and investor. Furthermore, I plan to continue developing my own recycling startup, Recyco, and to participate in the Harvard Climate Entrepreneur’s Circle incubation program.

In addition to the high-level coursework I will receive through the CS major, I know Harvard’s strong liberal arts program will allow me to gain the understanding I need of how Argentina and other developing countries fit into the global economy. I’ll be able to take courses like Latin America and the United States (HIST 1511), so I can supplement my technical training with a foundation in international political economy. And, of course, I intend to be active in the Harvard Argentine Student Society.

When I say I am from Argentina, many assume I must love soccer, asados and alfajores, and instinctively greet everyone with a hug. I actually do, but what many probably don’t know is that since I was thirteen I have known the exchange rate between pesos and dollars because in Argentina your savings consistently lose value due to chronic inflation. Amid such instability, the best-laid plans can easily come undone or at least get derailed, even if you work hard. This very situation, however, also makes us appreciate the urgency of addressing problems and makes us experts at thinking outside the box and finding cheaper, simpler, and more practical solutions so that everyone can benefit from them.

At Harvard, I look forward to contributing this perspective as I advance my knowledge and develop innovative ideas with my new peers. I am eager to learn from their experiences and make life-long friends.