Personal Statement

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AB/SM Concurrent Master’s Program in Computer Science

Three years ago my 3 best friends and I made a pact: travel to the U.S., learn as much as we can, connect with brilliant and innovative thinkers, develop ourselves professionally, then return to Argentina to help our country attain sustainable growth.

My first step was to pursue technical training at Rice University. However, I came to realize that the culture at Rice was not the best fit for me. To achieve my goals, I sought an atmosphere of discovery with students passionate about technological change who are anxious to materialize their innovations through research, startups, and applications in industry. I was excited to discover such an environment at Harvard so, after completing freshman year, I transferred.

After my transfer, I was able to connect with classmates who shared my passion for innovation and my commitment to using technology as a means to improve living conditions in Latin America. For the first time, I met other like-minded founders who were developing startups to elevate the socioeconomic status of their home communities and make better opportunities available. Having found people that knew first-hand what life is like in Latin America and who share my ideals, I became more involved in the community than ever.

Naturally, I wanted more people at Harvard to join this group of forward thinkers dedicated to making positive change in Latin America, and decided that a good start was helping my fellow Hispanic classmates to pursue STEM related-fields. I became president of the Harvard SEAS Chapter of the Society of Professional Hispanic Engineers and doubled down on club outreach efforts, drawing attention to successful Latin entrepreneurs and connecting companies with promising Hispanic engineers graduating Harvard.

In pushing others to pursue science, I came to realize myself that there was a vast world of advanced knowledge that I was not tapping into, and that had practical applications to the types of problems I want to solve. My cultural, academic, and professional background puts me in the perfect position to use the Concurrent Master’s as an opportunity to explore the field of Computer Science and apply my learnings back home.

When I say I am from Argentina, many assume I must love soccer, asados and alfajores, and instinctively greet everyone with a hug. Indeed, I 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, 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 to find cheaper, and more practical solutions so that everyone can benefit from them.

I look forward to contributing this perspective as I advance my knowledge and develop innovative ideas with my new peers in graduate classes. I am eager to learn from their experiences and contribute to their research efforts.