Dear Bridgewater Associates Team,

I am thrilled to apply for the Bridgewater Immersion Program, an opportunity that feels perfectly aligned with my intellectual passions and professional aspirations. As a sophomore at Cornell University pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science with a strong academic foundation in macroeconomics, financial engineering, and machine learning, I am eager to bring my experiences and enthusiasm to Bridgewater's mission of generating alpha through systematic trading strategies.

My excitement for this program deepened after my recent coffee chat with Rachael Adelson, an Investment Engineer at Bridgewater. Her insights into the firm's systematic approach to trading, culture of radical transparency, and commitment to understanding the drivers of global economies left a lasting impression on me. Hearing firsthand about the rigor, collaboration, and creativity that underpin Bridgewater's investment strategies further cemented my desire to be part of an organization that thrives on innovation and challenges conventional thinking.

My journey into trading and financial systems began with a fascination for the underlying forces that govern markets. This passion has driven me to engage in projects and internships that blend technical expertise with a deep curiosity about market behavior. During my time at Paragon Global Investments, I collaborated with a Bridgewater trader, Nick Klatsky, to develop systematic currency trading models that leveraged statistical and macroeconomic data. Through techniques like PCA and Gaussian Mixture Models, we are identifying trading regimes and implementing real-time performance analysis, yielding significant insights. These experiences mirrored the principles I admire in Bridgewater's process—building a deep understanding of economic drivers and codifying that knowledge into actionable strategies.

At Virtu Financial's Quantitative Trading Winternship, I further honed my skills in analyzing market patterns and developing simulations, presenting a winning S&P futures trading strategy to senior executives. These opportunities have not only deepened my technical expertise in tools like Python and Tableau but also fostered a disciplined, collaborative mindset essential for tackling the challenges of financial markets.

What excites me most about Bridgewater is your relentless pursuit of truth and your commitment to understanding the intricate interplay of economies and markets. Your culture of radical transparency and iterative learning resonates with me deeply, as does the focus on systematically refining insights into trading strategies. My experience programming trading systems and optimizing backtesting frameworks has taught me the importance of precision and adaptability—qualities I see mirrored in Bridgewater's approach.

I am particularly drawn to the Immersion Program's emphasis on learning, collaboration, and mentorship. The prospect of engaging with Bridgewater's thinkers, participating in macroeconomic investing training, and refining my skills in preparation for a potential internship excites me beyond words. I am eager to contribute my analytical skills, passion for trading, and insatiable curiosity to your mission of achieving world-class investment performance.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the possibility of learning from and contributing to the remarkable work being done at Bridgewater.

Sincerely,
Lakshmi Meghana Kesanapalli