

EENG personal introduction

Dear Petrushka,

I hope that with this email you will get a better idea of both, my academic and professional background leading up to now.

Since last year, I have been enrolled in the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences, where I am studying Energy and Environmental Systems Engineering in order to become an energy engineer.

My school experience started in Claro, a small village located to the north of Bellinzona, the capital of Canton Tessin. There, I have attended kindergarten and primary school, whereas my secondary school was located in Castione. Dithering about the choice to apply for a high school or an apprenticeship, I jumped into the latter, starting my first job as a Building Services Designer. The job gave me the choice between three specializations: heating, ventilation, or plumbing systems, and I stuck with heating systems. After long consideration, I also decided to undergo baccalaureate with the technical matura alongside my four working years. As soon as my apprenticeship ended, I served in the army at the CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear) Decontamination Defence recruit school. Although I did not enjoy the behavior of people in the military, I indeed loved my service. Since the recruit school ended in November, instead of applying for a school, I decided to convert my remaining days of military service into civil service. I had the valuable opportunity to work six months as Research Collaborator in Renewable Energy at the University of Applied Sciences of Southern Switzerland, in the Institute of Applied Sustainability to the Built Environment, where I learned the theory and the practical application of photovoltaic modules, finding the motivation to pursue further university education. Fascinated by physics, my goal was to study nuclear physics at EPFL, hence I applied for the passerelle program, which allows students with a technical matura to have access to universities and polytechnics. However, that program was not fulfilling my expectations, so I decided to enroll in an applied science university, for instance the HSLU.

English in Tessin is not taught until the third year of secondary school, which in my opinion is pretty late. Only around the time of my passerelle year I started to develop an actual interest towards the language. I had the chance to study with Delia, an extraordinary student with advanced knowledge in English, to whom I am very grateful for tutoring me throughout the whole year. Although I did not particularly enjoy the passerelle year, it gave me the determination to continue my studies in English. The hardest part of my journey was obtaining the C1 certificate in English in order to be accepted by the university, which I finally achieved as a private candidate thanks to the IELTS exam in May 2025. Nowadays, I am doing my best to improve my skills, especially in speaking and listening, which are my weakest points.

I find all the lexical topics of the course very interesting, especially materials and energy production, which are closely related to my field of study. I believe that English for Engineers will be a great opportunity to enhance my aforementioned weaknesses. I acknowledge that my vocabulary is still quite limited, consequently my speaking skills are limited due to the difficulty of finding the right words. I consider communication one of the most important skills in professional life, and I would like to have a good command of it.

My faculty is split into energy systems and environmental systems, and so is my current semester. The main subjects I am studying are related to sustainable environmental systems, including waste management, water treatment and air pollution control, and to thermodynamics, such as gas dynamics and heat transfer. I am also part of a project team of nine students for the module PDP1, Production Development Project 1, where we are discussing solutions to introduce the topic of energy production and waste management to children between six and sixteen years old who will attend a one-week summer camp.

My professional goal is to become an energy engineer, working in the field of renewable energy, especially within the thermal systems sector. I am also particularly interested in photovoltaic systems and energy storage, which are growing fields with a lot of potential. Obtaining the bachelor's degree in Energy and Environmental Systems Engineering is the first step toward achieving my goal, and I am determined to do my best to succeed.

I believe this long introduction shows my background and motivation, and I look forward to growing as both a student and a future engineer.

Best regards,
Matteo Frongillo