

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to express my eagerness and motivation in applying for a Ph.D. opportunity at Columbia University. As Neblett says, we are the sum of our experiences. For this reason, I was always attracted to different ventures and trying out all that life has to offer. I have played water polo for more than eight years. This experience taught me the importance of teamwork and dedication. It got me used to pushing myself to my limits physically, with the same motivation and resilience I do research today. I learned Judo in Japan, which taught me discipline and perseverance. And I played the flute for ten years, which trained my creativity and self-expression. All these different experiences, I use today in my research in some way, providing me with different ways of approaching problems.

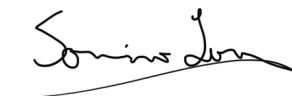
My education starts in Belgium, where I learned the basics of Engineering and was given a broad understanding of every major subject in Engineering. After getting what the European education system had to offer, I decided to exit my comfort zone and travel across the world to Japan. This experience allowed me to grow further than I had ever expected by immersing me in a completely different culture and education system. Here I learned the basics of computer architecture and hardware accelerators by allowing me to present my research at conferences and publish articles. I learned what it meant to be a researcher and encouraged me to pursue this career path. It also taught me to adapt, overcome the language barrier, and take the best of what different cultures have to offer. Finally, it taught me the importance of getting out of his comfort zone. Indeed, I am a firm believer these different experiences and cultural influences made me a better researcher than what a single culture would ever have.

To me, Columbia University represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to repeat this experience, get out of my comfort zone once again, and explore a new culture. I hope to join a top-class university in one of the cultural capitals of the world. I hope to deepen my understanding of computer architecture while working with the best researchers in the world. I hope to gain contact with enterprises to secure a bright future in industry-leading corporations. Indeed, after graduation, I plan to make use of the experience I got from doing research at Columbia University to work as a researcher at some big company in the field of RTL Engineering and computer hardware. I have always been fascinated by computers since I had my first family computer. After using computers and looking up to technology for years, I now want to build the next generation of computer hardware. I wish to push forward the boundaries of possibility and inspire future generations of computer architects the same way past generations inspired me to become one. However, this is no easy task, which is why I need to learn from the best and decided to apply to Columbia University. I hope my motivation came across to you as I am ready to take up this challenge.

I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Lorenzo Sonnino

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sonnino L', with a horizontal line underneath.