

## Statement of Purpose

It all started with my mother telling me hard to believe stories about her undergraduate studies in Computer Science in New York thirty five years ago. She told me how they used to write and debug programs using punch cards and their school bag always contained a heavy box full of them. When I got my first game console which was a Commodore 64, I realized that in a very short time great improvements had been made in computers and the possibilities for further changes were infinite and diverse but not out of reach.

A few years later, in high school, one of my classmates wrote a program that simulated one of our chemistry courses. It was a graphical program written in C. I knew then that my future would be in participating in computer technology. I took a LOGO class and started programming and it was a very fulfilling experience for me. A few months later, my sister was accepted in a university and started studying Software Engineering. Now having even a greater motivation to learn more about computers, I studied hard for the Nationwide Matriculation Exam, and with ranking 536 among 500,000 participants, I was accepted as a student of Computer Science in School of Electrical and Computer Engineering in University of Tehran which is the most prestigious university in Iran.

During my studies, my outlook and expectations of the future started to change. When I passed the Advanced Programming course, I saw everything in an object oriented matter so that when I was playing video games, I was always thinking of the objects of it. While taking the Artificial Intelligence course, I started to think how computers could act like humans. At the same time, I was hired at Iran System Company as a web developer. It's IT department has two websites named *cloob.com* and *mihanblog.com* which are the second and third ranking Iranian websites in social networks and blog service. My interest in these fields made me quite competent at my job and I was given major projects on both websites such as setting up a *Text Message System*, designing and developing a *Theme Creator* and an *Online Game System*. I also taught an *iPhone Programming* course to my colleagues. Another project that I did for our department was a client-server application named *KaperMarket*. KaperMarket was used for supermarket delivery, which after a while changed to an online shop. The last project I designed and developed for my company was *Pelak24*, which is under final tests. Pelak24 allows people to put their online advertisements for free. My knowledge in web development improved really fast because I loved my job and spent many long hours trying and testing new and improved things. I became an expert web developer, which led me to a few good work opportunities after one year. I came to realize that developing is an important principal in Computer Science but it is not everything. So I decided to write my B.Sc. thesis on Online Social Network Analysis and use my thesis research in improving cloob.com's website by upgrading its AI functionalities in such ways like giving recommendations to users on how to make new friends in their cyber life.

I had my first teaching experience when I graduated from high school. My school offered me a job in giving swimming lessons to its students as a required summer activity. I took the job not knowing how much I would come to love it. I taught my students freestyle and butterfly and when I saw them getting medals in their swimming

contests, I realized I could be a good teacher in the future. I taught C++ to some of my senior undergraduate friends in the Metallurgy Department and they all passed their programming course with high grades. My first official university teaching experience was as a teaching assistant for Fundamentals of Computers and Programming. After that I became TA for Internet Engineering and Database Lab and taught web technologies, web developing languages and databases. Since summer of 2010, I have been teaching Objective-C, PHP, HTML and JavaScript for iPhone and Web Programming in NODET (National Organization for Developing Exceptional Talents) high school.

In May 2010, because of my knowledge of web technology, I was offered to give a lecture in a seminar about web and network security. Managing directors of 50 major Iranian IT companies attended that seminar and I lectured on web technology and improvement of current web systems.

These experiences have led me to believe that a fulfilling and successful future for me lies in teaching and research, which can be achieved by a high standard of education. Therefore, I have decided to apply to \*\*\*\*\* University where most of the ongoing projects match perfectly with my interests. I have read about pioneering works and various projects on Social Networks, Data Mining and Databases in your university, and have found them very stimulating and inspiring.

I would regard my acceptance to the \*\*\*\*\* University an honor and a great responsibility. I am aware that joining your computer science department will require diligent work and energetic and attentive application to tasks, and I can assure you that I am absolutely motivated and totally prepared for it.