

The Hague, Friday 25 March, 2016

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am applying for the Global Challenges Program, with a major in World Politics because I am highly qualified, and have strong motivation, and a wide array of skills and competences which I will contribute to the program. Currently I am a first-year student in the International Public Management (IPM) department at The Hague University of Applied Sciences with a grade average of 8.4.

I am proud of the fact that I have conducted my studies and extracurricular activities highly successfully. I started at the VMBO-T, from which I graduated cum laude. Afterwards, knowing that I could do more and learn more about the world around me and myself, I obtained my HAVO diploma in one year at the VAVO in Eindhoven with an average of 8.3. After obtaining my HAVO diploma, I wanted to study an interdisciplinary programme as I am interested in many disciplines, and the IPM program provides this opportunity. IPM is a very broad and enriching program; however, I am striving to analyze subjects on a deeper level, in order to fully comprehend interconnected, complex disciplines, and I know that the Global Challenges program can offer me this. The reason that I want to study the Global Challenges programme, is that I need to comprehend a wide array of interconnected disciplines, in order to give my utmost contribution to peace and justice in our violent world.

My dedication and ever-lasting drive for justice, peace and humanity are rooted in my Kurdish refugee background. My parents and I fled from the regime of Saddam Hussein in 1997, who conducted the genocidal al-Anfal campaign against Kurdish civilians. My parents worked hard to provide me with a healthy education and stable environment, and my belief in justice and progress is rooted in their experience and their perseverance to overcome difficulties, and move forward to establish justice and peace to preserve our humanity. As we have been received warmly by the Dutch people back in the time, I felt the urge to help people who desperately need justice and humanity in their lives.

Therefore, besides my VMBO-T studies, I have conducted an enriching 940-hour supervised internship at VluchtelingenWerk Roermond and Venlo, which enabled me to work with a team of professionals in order to assist refugees with their asylum procedure and integration process. A key lesson was that I had to learn to maintain a professional distance, because I often became too emotionally involved. Making mistakes is essential, as they do not cause damage. I learn from them and modify my approaches, "It is the crosswind which raises the kite".

Moreover, as I strive to spread awareness of injustice in my environment, I am an active member of the Educational Committee of the Agorá International Student Union: a structure which organizes thought-provoking events, such as lectures, debates and critical movie nights.

As there is much injustice in our world, especially against women in conflict situations and suppressing patriarchal societies, I am also a committee member of the Think & Do Tank Gender Programme at The Hague University. We strive to raise awareness and stimulate dialogue by organizing events regarding gender and 'honour' violence against women.

I believe that challenges must be actively confronted. In fact, I want to be challenged to the utmost, in order to get the best out of myself, and my environment. Therefore, I am particularly interested in your multidisciplinary programme, because I believe that the LUC is a challenging and fertile academic meeting point, where motivated students can utilize the best academic research.

The intensive and small-scale teaching methods that the LUC provides will help me to deepen my knowledge gradually, and develop my research skills. Moreover, cooperation and discussions with your experienced and diverse academic staff, will help me to build on my education and enables me to significantly contribute to the learning environment, since we can reinforce and challenge each other.

The e-prospectus courses which I would like to follow include the introduction to social and political philosophy, the introduction to international relations and diplomacy, and the introduction to peace and conflict studies. I find this enriching combination of courses fundamental, as they will reinforce my major in World Politics, deepen my insights and increase my intellectual capacity for debate and dialogue. This essential knowledge will significantly help me with my academic research and writing.

In fact, studying at your university will provide me with structural knowledge, and I strongly believe that when this knowledge is constructively utilized through transnational networks of dedicated people, we can achieve our aims to reduce the suffering of people, and create a better world. In fact, the epigraph of the LUC is actually the main thread in my life: building knowledge for a better world

Apart from the rich curriculum and essential resources of the LUC, what I have found most attractive, is the diversity of its students and staff community. I believe that such a diversity of dedicated people within an intensive academic environment is a distinguishing characteristic of the LUC.

My rich background, my skills, and especially my motivation and creative desire, will enable me to significantly contribute to the academic environment and activities of the LUC, while the LUC will offer me the opportunity to broaden my horizon and indeed, help me in my life goal to make the world a better place.

I am looking forward to your invitation for an admission interview.

Yours Faithfully,

Kevin Suleiman