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Leiden University College The Hague
Liberal Arts & Sciences: Global Challenges
Anna van Buurenplein 301
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“Building Knowledge for a Better World”

Dear Sir, Madam,

My name is Kevin Suleiman. I was born in 1995 in Koysinjaq; a small Kurdish village, officially in the North of Iraq: however, actually it's in the South of Kurdistan, the mountainous land of the Kurds. In 1997, my parents and I, and hundreds of thousands of others, fled from the barbaric Baath regime headed by Saddam Hussein, who devised and conducted the al-Anfal campaign, which resulted in more than 190.000 Kurdish civilian casualties. I want to make the essential remark that despite the terrible atrocities that Mr. Saddam has committed, he should never have been executed in such an inhumane way. In fact, he deserved a fair and humane trial in court, and should have been imprisoned for the rest of his life.

Two of my uncles were executed by the Baath regime, however, this is not an exceptional case. Every Kurdish family has the deep scars of a tragic loss. My ever-lasting drive for justice & humanity in our volatile world, is mainly fueled by the tragic history and suffering of my people. However, there is a lot of suffering and exploitation of many humans around the world, every case has its own complex dimensions, but I believe that we, the people, can change the world: united we are strong.

I am deeply convinced that the status quo in the world is not sustainable, and therefore we, the people, have to take charge and build bridges, in order to devise sustainable and effective solutions for the major world affairs we are facing today. Therefore, the motto of the LUC is actually the “red line” in my life: knowledge is power, especially when utilized in transnational networks of dedicated and loyal people, which indeed in the end will result in a better and more humane world.

Currently I study International Public Management at The Hague University of Applied Sciences and my average grade is an 8.63. However, the course and teachers do not challenge me enough. I want to take charge of my own education and development, and I am convinced that the Global Challenges programme of the LUC will significantly challenge me, in order to get the best out of myself, and my environment. In my opinion, the LUC is a fertile melting point, in which motivated students and teachers, can exchange their knowledge, experiences and recommendations, in which we can & will devise sustainable and effective solutions for the major world affairs we are facing nowadays: from climate change & pollution of our essential natural environment to interconnected armed conflicts, international terrorism and gender & honor violence in The Middle East.

The current global challenge which I find most interesting is the never-ending conflicts in our world, I wonder why we as humans cannot peacefully coexist in our beautiful, but volatile planet. Therefore, the major I would like to study at the LUC is World Politics, because I want to comprehend how the International State System works and which essential actors play the most significant roles. The process of globalization intensifies the transnational networks and interconnectedness, and therefore I am convinced that this major will provide me with a combination of the most essential knowledge, which I will utilize in my main goal: make the world a better place.

In my opinion, initially it is most important to understand how the status quo in our world functions, and which processes are utilized in order to reach international agreements & treaties. When I comprehend this vital foundation of knowledge, I want to combine it with many other interconnected disciplines such as International Law, Economics, History & Culture, in order to deepen my comprehension and to utilize my knowledge in international conferences and debates.

Therefore, the e-prospectus courses which I would like to do are: Introduction to Social & Political Philosophy, Introduction to International Relations & Diplomacy, and Introduction to Peace & Conflict Studies. This enriching combination of courses is essential, since they significantly contribute to my comprehension of the major of World Politics, and actually deepen the process of understanding. Especially with the intensifying globalization process, it is vital to understand how the world is changing in all its complex dimensions, in order to operate in an effective and credible manner.

The thing that I am proudest of in my life is that I have been very dedicated and successful in my studies, extracurricular activities, and personal development. I started at the VMBO-T, which I graduated Cum Laude, and besides I did a 940-hour internship at VluchtelingenWerk Roermond & Venlo, which was very enriching, yet emotional. Afterwards, I have obtained my HAVO diploma in one year at the VAVO in Eindhoven in which I graduated with an average of 8.29. Besides my International Public Management study at The Hague University of Applied Sciences, I am in the Educational Committee of the Agorá International Student Union, in which we organize enriching and thought-provoking events, such as lectures and Critical Movie Night's.

The major pitfall for me is that I often want to do things to perfectly, and therefore results may be disappointing sometimes, because in the end I cannot control and regulate everything as I want. Hence, I cannot change the world alone, and I need to improve my ability to connect different goals and recourses in order to reach compromises and results. I strongly believe that making mistakes is essential, as long as I learn from it and modify my approaches. As the Dutch say: "It is the crosswind which raises the kite".

In addition, I have founded The International Initiative of Peace & Justice, in The Hague, together with Ahmad Halima who is also applying at the LUC. We, as co-founders of this organization strive to organize enriching & thought-provoking events, in which we will create a fertile melting point of inspiring people, which can exchange their knowledge, experiences & recommendations. We are still in the start-up process, but we will register soon at the chamber of commerce, and we will develop an official operational plan, in order to request funding from the Ministry of Education, Culture & Science.

I attended the experience day last Monday, in which dear Elize Kaulina gave me an enriching tour through the LUC residential college, and shared her experiences with me about the course curriculum, and the diverse and motivated community within the LUC. What I find most attractive about the LUC community is the colorful mosaic of unique & inspiring students which it embodies. I believe that this diversity of dedicated people within a close community creates the fertile melting point for development and progress. In addition, I will do my utmost best to make a significant contribution to this great community of LUC.

I hope to have you informed sufficiently, and I am looking forward to your invitation for an admission interview, in which I can explain my motivation more extensively and in-depth.

With Best Regards,

Kevin Suleiman