

Pooya Davoodi

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University of {name of the university}

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter as my statement of purpose for applying to the PhD program. This letter describes my background and my goals for the future and introduces me and my characteristics.

Statement of Purpose

During my undergraduate and master degree education in the department of computer science at university of Tehran, I have found that I am very interested in researching computer science and **bioinformatics**.

Gaining knowledge has been my main goal since my childhood and I have always liked studying about my interesting subjects such as mathematics, physics, philosophy, theology, politics, literature, computer science and recently biology.

When I was an undergraduate student, I was researching superficially in some different stimulating fields of computer science and mathematics such as **graph theory, automata, programming, data structures and algorithms** and I was doing many assignments and **writing many programs** for my courses, most of them with C++. Although, I was very interested in designing and analyzing algorithms, the design algorithm course grade was the worst negative in my background and it was because of a problem before the test.

I continued my superficial researching during the time I was doing my master degree, but I studied bioinformatics more in detail. I focused on **pattern discovery and motif finding in DNA sequences** in the last year of graduation and selected it as my thesis subject. I was working in a team that succeeded in **designing a new algorithm** for finding patterns (especially transcription factor binding sites). That algorithm is now in the testing phase and now I am trying to compare it with some other algorithms in this field. At the moment I am spending most of my research time, writing programs with Perl to **extract interesting features from some genomes**. I am interested in bioinformatics because it is related to combinatorial algorithms and I am fascinated in this field and I found it more practical and valuable than other combinatorial problems which are the subjects of research in university of Tehran. I have read some books about bioinformatics and I have attended in a few seminars, lectures and workshops in this field. I have even done some works in some other fields and problems such as **gray codes, parallel algorithms, programming with MPI and DNA computing**.

Also in the past, I was spending some of my time **teaching computer courses** in few universities, **developing some applications** in .NET framework, **counseling** a student scientific association, **supervising** some undergraduate student with their final projects and in my free time **studying a lot of books** on different subjects.

In recent years I have tried to improve my technical abilities in software developing and system maintenance to improve my knowledge to be a better teacher at university or out of university as an employee.

I plan to work towards a PhD with a focus on bioinformatics and systems biology. My motivations for starting a PhD are the following:

- I have **great interest in learning, researching and satisfying my intellectual and scientific curiosity.**
- I believe I am a **talented and astute** person. My grades and ranks in school and university (University Of Tehran; one of the best universities in Iran) indicate that I have always been a very good student, in fact I have been the best or one of the third best students in most classes and courses.
- I would like to **work closely with intellects** and I think university is one of the best places for this purpose. My aim is to be a professor and researcher in a university.
- I think that I could be a very **successful teacher**. My experience in recent years can prove this. I was selected as one of the best teachers in UAST-ACECR-Sharif University Branch by students and managers.
- I have never lived outside Iran so **living abroad** will be a great experience in my life. We suffer from lack of facilities in our universities in Iran but the main problem is the distance between us and the cutting edge of science.

I am a very **patient, quiet, calm and relaxed** person and always keep my temper. I am **hard worker** and I know this is necessary to produce good results from research. I have **self-discipline** and I am well-organized enough to follow my daily schedule. I have learnt that having a regular schedule and being self-discipline and persistent is essential to finish tasks before deadlines and to sail through unproductive periods. Also as another characteristic, I have a close relationship with my students and I love working with them.

Given my academic and professional background, I believe that I would be a good case to continue my education at the PhD level. I have decided to study at {name of the university} and it would be a great honor if you took me on and I will do my best to be a successful part of your team.

Thank you for considering my application.

Yours Sincerely,

Pooya Davoodi