

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Besides my regular studies in high school, I really liked to know more deeply about mathematics and physics. This tendency helped me to achieve a Silver Medal in “National Physics Olympiad”. I chose Mechanics as my Bachelor’s degree because of my strong background in Mathematics and Physics. Furthermore I took many courses in Mathematics like Probability, Statistics, Calculus I&II and so on. This background helped me to rank 2nd in Mechanical Eng. Department at Sharif University of Technology which is the best Technical School in Iran.

I read “The Wealth of Nations” when I was the head of an extracurricular library at Sharif University. Concept of “Invisible Hand” and intellectual rationales for free market policies seemed new and appealing to me. Later on, I read “Law, Legislation and Liberty” & “Development as Freedom” and really enjoyed the fundamental concepts of Economics mentioned in them. This was the first cause of my growing interest in the field of economics.

Participating in “Principle of Economics” course during my undergraduate study lectured by Professor Nili was my first exposure to a framework for analysis of the behavior of economic agents by means ranging from IS & LM to General Equilibrium models. I got highly motivated by the course and I read the two basic textbooks in economics “Intermediate Microeconomics” and “Principle of Macroeconomics”. The pleasure of taking this course was the main reason I chose to continue my graduate study in Economics although I had the chance to study Mechanical Engineering without taking competitive the entrance exam due to my excellent performance in my undergraduate course.

During the master program and in “Microeconomics I” course, the grand Mathematical aspect of Mas-Colell and the outstanding lecture by Prof. Tabibian convinced me that mathematics is a powerful tool for explaining the social behavior. This was confirmed especially when I read the “Social Economics” by Gary Becker. After learning the “Growth Models” and simulating them during the graduate program, I obtained a better understanding of underdevelopment in my country. RBC is the subject of my Master Thesis. I hope to extract some stylized fact about Iran’s oil exporting economy after accompanying TC filter on Macroeconomic Variables. This can help to make a precise decomposition of the cyclical components of the Business Cycles so that one can measure the contribution of fiscal shocks, oil price shocks and the like in short run fluctuations of Iran’s economy.

In addition to my academic studies, I also have had good teaching and research experiences. I have been TA for two semesters in “Linear Control” and this semester I am TA for “Principle of Economics”. I also have done some projects in my country including “The Economic cost of AIDS in Iran” sponsored by UNAIDS and “Estimating the Liquidity of IKCO¹” done in the biggest car Manufacturing Company in the Middle East.

I want to continue my education in a world class university with a strong program in economics. I believe that what I learned about imperfect markets, asymmetric information, and natural resources and my familiarity with a third world country like Iran, will help me to build

¹ Iran Khodro Company

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relevant models in the field of Macroeconomics and Growth Theory. I enjoy both teaching and doing research in the field of economics. My ultimate goal is to be a researcher besides teaching at a good university.

I have chosen the University of Chicago for its excellent faculty especially in Macroeconomics. The works of Prof. Lucas in Growth Theory and Prof. Shimer in Labor Economics are very inspiring to me. Mr. Ebrahimi, a friend of mine who is currently studying at the University of Chicago encouraged me to apply to your school because of his own excellent experience at your PhD program. Considering all these aspects, I'm sure that University of Chicago would be one of the best choices of mine.

Mohammad Hossein Rahmati

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