

Statement of Purpose

Maryam Saeedi

My undergraduate studies were in mechanical engineering. Although I was among the best students in the department (with 17.05 over 20 average (A) / among the top ten), my interests align with social issues much more than with engineering. Between social sciences, I considered economics the best candidate because it strongly relates with mathematics. While I was in undergraduate, I took two graduate courses from the Graduate School of Management and Economics at Sharif University of Technology. I also did a research assistantship in the department. I noticed that economics stimulated my interests a lot and I decided to change my major to economics. I began my master's program in Economics at the University of British Columbia in 2004, achieving a 93 per cent (A⁺) average. I started my PhD at the same university in 2005. During these studies, I understand that I really like economics and I want to become a researcher in the field. The most attractive aspect of economics for me is that I can research but at the same time the research can have positive effects on people's lives. In short, it confronts the social and economical problems.

I have the necessary abilities to complete a PhD in economics and to continue as a researcher in it. I have a strong background in mathematics. I took six different mathematic courses in undergraduate. Besides, I have a lot of additional studies in mathematics since I have participated in the International Mathematics Competition for University Students, 2001, in which I took second prize, and in the National Mathematical Olympiad for High School Students, 1999, in which I took gold medal. These contests cover a large variety of mathematics' domains: algebra, linear algebra, real analysis, topology, calculus, and combinatorics. Taking part in several mathematics competitions was a very valuable experience for me. The effect of those studies appears in each of my courses. It helps me to think deeply and to have the analytical power in solving tough and difficult problems and I think it will help me through research as well. My other advantage is studying in graduate school for two years. Having masters and attending first year PhD courses I have a good idea about what should I do afterwards. One of the fields that I am interested to continue is macroeconomics. Monetary economics and growth are some of my favorite issues. There are several open discussions in these fields that should be examined and verified.

University of Minnesota has a very great faculty in macroeconomics; one characteristic that makes me to re-apply from The University of British Columbia. Moreover, the recourses at Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis help University of Minneapolis to build even a better environment in macroeconomics. A large number of very excellent researchers around United States visit the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and University of Minnesota regularly and graduate students of University of Minnesota have the opportunity of working with these professors as it is shown in the record. I would be grateful, if I have the chance of working with Professor Kocherlacota or Professor Boldrin. Could I have the chance of becoming a graduate student at University of Minnesota, I will become an outstanding student.

Maryam Saeedi
First Year PhD Student
University of British Columbia