

Statement of Academic Purpose

Ali Shourideh

The first time I was introduced to economics was in high school when we talked about monetary policy and inflation. I was interested in the subject from a social science perspective. I came across economics again during my undergraduate studies by taking two courses from Graduate School of Management and Economics. Although I was a student in mechanical engineering, I succeeded in those courses. I find economics a very motivating field and enjoy the complex analytical methods that are used in it. I started my master studies at The University of British Columbia in economics in 2004. I finished my master in 2005 and started my PhD right after in UBC. I graduated from master with the highest GPA among master students: 93.6/100 (A+). This made me sure that I am able to fulfill the goals of any high level economics program. Especially, my skills in math will make me able to be successful in economics.

My ability in mathematics are based on my high level background. I was a member of the Iranian National Mathematical Olympiad team in 1999 and 2000, as a high school student. I have got two silver medals in the International Mathematical Olympiad. I represented Sharif University during my undergraduate studies, as a mathematics team member in International Mathematics Competition for University Students. As a preparation for these contests, I went through various qualification programs, in which I fortified my analytical abilities in mathematics. This will enable me to overcome any mathematical difficulties during my research. After having one year of master courses and one year of PhD courses, I have enough intuition about economic concepts to pursue my career as an academic person in economics. My interest is mainly in theory of the firm. Generally, the way firms behave plays a critical role in world's economy. My main interest is to model firm's behavior in order to approach macro, growth, and development. Theory of the firm, in the recent years, has been developed very much while its application in other fields like macro and growth is still challenging. I think I am able to take that challenge and base my research on this approach.

To pursue my research goals, University of Minnesota is the best place for me to continue my PhD in economics. Being in a close relationship with Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, it provides a very outstanding environment for research. Having a great and outstanding faculty makes Minnesota one of the top departments in economics. As a great school in macroeconomics, I wish I can work in the great environment of the department of economics in Minnesota. The works of Prof. Narayana Kocherlakota in asset pricing and monetary theory is very inspiring for me and I will be very happy to work under his supervision. At last, I think based on my qualification I will be an appropriate PhD student for department of economics at Minnesota.

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