

From : **Ajay Jude Lopez**

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To : The Selection Committee, University of Vaasa

Dear Selection Committee,

*“dubito, ergo sum, vel, quod idem est, cogito, ergo sum”* is a quote by René Descartes that deeply resonates with me. Though Descartes used this quote to validate his existence, to me it captures my nature. My doubts and my thoughts have made me the person that I am today. My childhood curiosities surrounding machines made me want to become an engineer and the notions that I had developed during my professional career, inspires me to learn more about principles of management.

I was inclined to the applied sciences in my schooling years, which made me choose engineering as the next step in my education. My bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering gave me good foundational knowledge in science and engineering. The extracurricular activities I participated in were a reflection of my curious nature. I used to attend all the workshops and seminars held on campus. I was also an avid quizzer, attending many national level quizzes, including the national levels of Mahindra AQ, one of India's most prestigious quizzes. The final year of my bachelors was decisive, career wise I was placed in an up and coming software company, but I chose to drop it for a job that's more in line with my field of study. This led to the beginnings of my professional career as an apprentice in the Quality Control Department of Leetha Industries, one of India's largest eco-friendly disposable cup manufacturers. Working at their state of the art facility exposed me to a high performance atmosphere and introduced me to best in class practices in Quality Control. Leetha Industries commitment to sustainable practices and eco-friendly products resonates deeply with me, as I believe that sustainability is an indispensable priority in modern engineering. My final year engineering project which was based on the biomass gasification of remnants of local agricultural produce post harvest, was also focused on sustainability. Sustainability is one of the cornerstones of social responsibility that an engineer should imbibe. All my life I have heavily involved myself in social responsibility activities including organising blood donation drives and aiding flood relief and rehabilitation camps. During the times of Covid I took tutoring for the underprivileged kids in my locality who couldn't attend classes due to the lockdown. Education is a paramount priority for the citizenry and an inalienable right for everyone, especially the children, for whom it seeks to make the most impact for. Post my exit from Leetha Industries I took a short break, where I assisted my father in his home appliances and bespoke furniture business and his woodhouse business. After my break I joined Eben Telecom for an outsourced process for Welcome Energy, a British utilities solution agency. Here I assumed the role of an Account Manager, which exposed me to a management oriented high performance environment.

My exposure to the industrial and management environments has made me want to seek a career that best combines both. For this I wish to get accepted to the MSc programme in Strategic Project Management offered by your university. I have found this programme to best suit me as it is a great step up from my bachelors. Analysing the syllabus I've found this programme masterfully combining the quintessential subjects of Engineering and Management while also introducing the latest industry developments through courses revolving around Innovative Product Development and Analytics in Project Management. The programme also includes courses on topics I show a keen interest in, such as Advanced Course in Quality and Reliability Management and Sustainable Project Marketing. I'm choosing to do this programme in the University of Vaasa, not just because of how expertly curated this course is but also because of how renowned University of Vaasa is and how committed it is to innovation. Being located in Finland, studying at University of Vaasa will allow me to observe a Nordic society and a highly developed economy. Reading articles online I've found that the University of Vaasa is among the best universities in the world, offering best in class faculty, facilities and opportunities in a diverse and multicultural environment. I will benefit greatly from the guidance of your expert faculty and be able to perform my best through the opportunities offered. I was particularly drawn to the high level research conducted by the university. I hope to improve my skills in the field of research in order to benefit my professional career and my further academic career. Post my masters I wish to pursue a career in the technical field in a role that requires management expertise, in Industries that are focused on or could benefit from sustainability. At a later stage I wish to do a PhD in a field relevant to my aspirations.

I believe that I'm a suitable candidate for this programme and your university. I believe I will greatly benefit from this opportunity and I can assure you I will bring my best to the table so the university benefits from me too. I hope to hear a positive response from your side.

Yours faithfully  
Ajay Jude Lopez