

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

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“If wars can be started by lies, they can be stopped by truth.”, Julian Assange

Journalism is defined as the dissemination of unbiased truths. The media relays information and facts about an international conflict to the public and helps them interpret international incidents without bias. Wars and conflicts have plagued humanity throughout every generation. Media is the intermediary between the news and the public, disseminating the truth of a conflict or war. Since childhood, I have enjoyed analysing historical conflicts through the eyes of the media. My passion for understanding conflict has inspired me to pursue a career in researching war and conflicts. My undergraduate studies and work experience have taught me critical analytical and research skills.

My academic journey through History, Tourism, and Journalism has equipped me with a nuanced understanding of societal dynamics across various levels and taught me the importance of effective communication in a modern, globalised society. My interdisciplinary undergraduate studies have fostered my passion for comprehending intricate issues - a skill critical to comprehending contemporary security threats. Studying history has acquainted me with conflicts' causes, effects, and solutions. Effective problem-solving and finding solutions are skills I developed through my coursework.

My interest also lies in contemporary issues. I have been monitoring ongoing global conflicts, including the Indo-Pakistan and Indo-China tensions, the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. These global crises have a significant geopolitical and economic impact. My research, analytical skills, and understanding of complex scenarios have aided me in addressing modern-day conflicts.

My internships and work experiences have deepened my understanding of geopolitical challenges and crises. Whilst working as a Research Assistant at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) in Bengaluru, I collaborated closely with research experts and think tanks on global issues. Specifically, I was a member of the Europe Monitor team, responsible for researching and analysing social, economic, and geopolitical trends in Europe. During my tenure at NIAS, I produced snippets, notes and commentaries for the Europe Monitor team. Their project mainly aimed to document the daily significant events related to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. I also participated in the team's workshops and lectures, which helped in further flourishing my interest in making valuable contributions towards global security endeavours.

University College Dublin's (UCD) MA in Media and International Conflict offers the ideal environment to deepen my understanding of wars, conflicts, and the role of media in them. I am highly drawn to UCD's distinguished faculty and their expertise in different aspects of peace and conflict studies. The program's emphasis on practical insights and research-based education perfectly matches my goals. I am very interested in the modules that emphasise conflict

resolution, international security, new media and geopolitics, which offer an excellent academic foundation to fulfil my ambitions in the field. Additionally, I aspire to enhance and refine my research and journalistic skills at UCD.

UCD's strong pledge to promote diversity and inclusiveness in the academic community is commendable. Interacting with classmates from diverse cultures and backgrounds will inevitably widen my horizons, enriching my academic experience and personal development. I'm thrilled by the collaborative learning atmosphere and the prospect of sharing ideas with similar-minded individuals.

I am committed to excelling in this programme and making a significant contribution to the academic community at University College Dublin. Throughout my time in school and college, I engaged in extracurricular activities that instilled in me the importance of teamwork, healthy competition, and gaining life experiences. I am confident that my academic background, experiences, and dedication align with the values and objectives of the MA in Media and International Conflict programme.

I aim to attain a doctorate and then pursue a Post Doctoral Fellowship in the field of media's influence in war and peace. Pursuing a career in the United Nations is one of my goals after finishing my Master's and doctoral fellowship. Additionally, I aspire to work as a professor at a highly regarded University, imparting knowledge of media's role in international conflicts to the future generation, after serving at the UN. I shall strive towards achieving all my goals and earning knowledge. I will aim to fully utilise the facilities provided by UCD if I have the opportunity to study at the esteemed institute. I am fully aware of the visa rules and regulations that should be followed by a person from a foreign, non-EU country. I promise to follow the enforced rules and laws and not overstay my welcome in the country.

Thank you for considering my application. I eagerly anticipate joining University College Dublin and embarking on this transformative academic journey.

Sincerely
Sai Pranav Chandra Jayakumar