

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

INTRODUCTION

I am Simi Rachel Thomas, a final-year Master's degree student majoring in Structural Engineering and Construction Management at Kerala Technological University, India. I am writing to express my strong interest in pursuing a Master of Science (MS) in Commercial Management and Quantity Surveying at **Heriot Watt University**. With a solid foundation in civil engineering and a keen interest in its advancements, I am drawn to the meticulous process of cost estimation, project management, and procurement strategies inherent in quantity surveying, all of which are crucial for delivering projects on time and within budget.

WHY HERIOT WATT UNIVERSITY AND THIS COURSE

My focus is on pursuing my studies overseas because the Indian educational system employs conventional methods and the institutions here are limited in their technological capabilities. **Heriot Watt University** is the perfect place for me to succeed academically and professionally because of its dedication to practical, industry-relevant learning, as well as its state-of-the-art facilities, knowledgeable faculty, and excellent networking opportunities provided by the university's strong industry partnerships. These insights will undoubtedly enhance my learning experience.

WHY UK

The UK has a reputation for high academic standards and rigorous quality assurance. Degrees from UK institutions are recognized and respected globally. UK universities offer a vast array of courses across numerous disciplines, allowing students to find programs that perfectly match their interests and career goals. Undergraduate programs typically last three years, and many master's programs can be completed in one year, allowing students to enter the workforce sooner and reduce overall tuition costs. The UK is a multicultural society, welcoming students from all over the world. This diversity enriches the learning experience and broadens cultural perspectives. The UK is a leader in research and innovation. Students have the opportunity to work alongside renowned researchers and contribute to cutting-edge projects. International students in the UK can work part-time during their studies, which helps gain work experience and offset living expenses. The Graduate Route visa also allows students to stay and work in the UK for up to two years after completing their degree.

FUTURE GOALS

After finishing the coursework, I want to use my newly acquired knowledge to contribute significantly to the construction sector. My ultimate objective is to take on leadership positions where I can promote creative and sustainable methods, guaranteeing the timely completion of building projects while giving cost-effectiveness and environmental sustainability a top priority.

Analytical thinking, excellent communication skills, and attention to detail are some of my natural strengths. These attributes, together with my perseverance and flexibility, fit the requirements of the quantity surveying industry perfectly. I have confidence that these qualities will help me succeed in the course and add substantial value to discussions and group projects.

Along with my formal education, I have completed a few internships at local construction

firms, especially at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL). The work included assisting with structural design, cost estimation, and project management tasks of structures comprising an office building with pile foundation, a Potain crane foundation with a raft foundation, and keel block. Hands-on practice on generally used software such as ETABS, STAAD Pro, AUTOCAD, Primavera P6, Microsoft Project, and Revit Architecture was obtained. I was also able to understand the discrepancies in the suggested design at the construction site. As a result, this internship has enabled me to have first-hand knowledge of the difficulties that the construction sector faces daily.

My knowledge and perspective on the fashion industry may not be extensive, however, my concern points towards the disposal of tons of clothes produced every year. Global fashion brands produce large amounts of clothing and the trend transitions create these clothes to land on landfills. Hence, strong and collective actions must be taken to avoid such wastage.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to and thrive in the academic community at **Heriot Watt University**.

Simi Rachel Thomas