

Letter of Motivation

To,

The Honorable Visa Officer,
Consulate General of Belgium,
Mumbai

Date: September 10, 2023

Respected Sir/Ma'am,

My name is Murtaza Atayi, holding a Passport bearing No. O2428463. I was born in Helmand, Afghanistan and am currently a resident of Surat, India. I am writing to apply for a student visa to pursue a Master's Degree in International Business at Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) in Belgium.

I am a native of Helmand, Afghanistan, raised in a supportive family with my parents and two siblings. My parents enrolled me in a private school to receive a quality education, and in June 2015, I graduated from 12th standard at Roushd Private High School, achieving a commendable 92.14% in my high school. My interest in the world of business began while working in my father's clothing business; assisting my father after school involved interacting and dealing with customers, sparking my passion for business.

This early exposure led me to pursue higher education in Business Administration from abroad. I chose to pursue my bachelor's from India and completed my Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) at Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) in 2020. Afterward, my plan was to apply for master's course in the USA under the US Fulbright Program, but unfortunately, the USA is not accepting 3-year bachelor's degree and advised me to complete one more year postgraduate or Master's to be eligible. So, I decided to continue my master's degree at the same University in India. During my master's studies, the Islamic Republic Government of Afghanistan fell, the US Embassy closed, and this program was cancelled. So, I continued my master's studies in India and completed my MBA in 2022.

During my academic tenure in India, I covered various aspects of the business and management field, including Business Economics, Business Communication, Principles of Management, Finance, Accounting, and Supply Chain and Logistics Management. Alongside my academic achievements, I actively participated in extracurricular activities. I volunteered for the "New Normal and Voice of Youth" program, a video competition held by ISRCY in 2020, and attended State-level Seminars and International Conferences, expanding my knowledge and network with peers and professionals alike.

It is worth mentioning that I did English proficiency from Aptech Academy and Microsoft Office Specialist certifications and completed online courses such as Introduction to Corporate Finance, Ratio Analysis, and Financial Analysis. I also took the academic IELTS test and achieved an overall band score of 6.0 band /B2 Level. Being a global citizen, I am fluent in English, Persian, Pashto, and Hindi.

Complementing my academic background, during my vacation I completed a six-week internship in the Global Entrepreneur Project in Finance at ACTA from November 25, 2019, to January 7, 2020, under the Global Exchange Program with AIESEC in Mansoura, Egypt, where I served as a Financial Accountant Intern. During this internship, I applied theoretical knowledge of accounting to practice, excelling in preparing journal entries and financial statements. Additionally, during my master's studies, I interned at Phillip Capital Pvt. Ltd. in Mumbai, India, as a Finance Intern from September 2021 to November 2021, where I enhanced my skills in client interaction and lead generation for wealth products. These experiences have exposed me to real-world challenges and opportunities in the business realm, reinforcing my desire to broaden my exposure in a more advanced country like Belgium.

As far as choosing a destination for studying abroad was concerned, I chose Belgium for my studies due to its strategic position as a hub of international business, diplomacy, and multiculturalism, making it an ideal location for a global perspective on business education. As the heart of the European Union, Belgium offers unparalleled exposure to international organizations, multinational corporations, and diverse markets, all of which are essential for understanding the complexities of global business operations.

Additionally, my decision to pursue the International Business program at Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) is rooted in my aspiration to broaden my global perspective and deepen my understanding of international markets, strategies, and operations. I believe that the esteemed faculty, diverse student body, and comprehensive curriculum at VUB will provide me with the ideal platform to achieve my academic and career aspirations. Furthermore, my multicultural background has instilled in me an appreciation for diversity and cultural sensitivity in global business interactions, qualities I aim to leverage to foster an inclusive and collaborative learning environment at VUB.

Pursuing my Master's in International Business at Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) promises an international focus, preparing me comprehensively for the challenges of global business environments. I am particularly excited about the experiential learning opportunities provided, which will enable me to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios. Moreover, the expertise of VUB's faculty and the diverse student body ensure a rich learning experience and invaluable networking opportunities. The multilingual environment of Belgium presents an excellent chance to enhance my language skills, a critical asset in international business. With VUB's strong career support services and the high quality of life in Belgium, I am confident that pursuing my Master's at VUB will equip me with the knowledge, skills, and connections necessary to thrive in the dynamic field of international business. VUB, a modern university with a rich past rooted in Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) for over 185 years, offers world-renowned quality education, evidenced by its ranking among the world's top 13% best universities in the world and it is 5th best University in Belgium (Times Higher Education – THE). This esteemed reputation assures fascinating internship opportunities and excellent connections with companies and institutions globally,

facilitated by the VUB Career Centre. Joining VUB means becoming part of a strong, inspirational alumni network, further solidifying professional futures.

To support myself financially, I have opened a blocked account with an amount of 13,000 EUR for a year. I also have sufficient funds in my Indian bank account for tuition fees and other costs.

Overall, growing up in a business environment where I used to help my father to run his business, and my academic journey has shaped my mindset to be always inspired by the business and management world. Now, at this stage of my life, I have the privilege to study at Vrije Universiteit Brussel in Belgium. After completing this program, I will be exposed to various job opportunities through which I can surpass my standards in career building. I believe the acquired practical knowledge will help me to work in MNCs, top-leading companies and worldwide projects. Ultimately, in the long run, my goal is to work with a global organization to obtain practical exposure in the area of International Business and Management and to build relationships through networking with other industry professionals. I aspire to gain a strong leadership position as an International Marketing Manager within an international organization such as McKinsey & Company, Bain & Company, or Boston Consulting Group. I also wish to become a mentor to other professionals in this field and help develop the next generation of international managers.

With this, I would like to conclude with a humble request to the visa authorities to kindly consider my application for a Student Visa and grant me approval for the same, so that I can move a step closer towards my goal.

Sincerely,
Murtaza Atayi