

August 2011

## Statement of Purpose

### General Guidance

The Statement of Purposes is one of the most important parts of your application for an exchange programme. Often it is the only way that the programme advisors at UNILU as well as the host university can evaluate your skills, accomplishments and goals. Many applications will specifically indicate what should be covered in it but there are a few general points that one should bare in mind:

- Spend some quality time on this essay as it may determine the outcome of your application.
- Be honest, straightforward and realistic. The statement of purpose is intended to form a basis for your advisors at UNILU to find with you a suitable place for studies abroad. It also serves the purpose of presenting yourself to the host university.
- Do not hesitate to solicit comments from professors and other members of the faculty, in particular your mentor and the student advisor, who can guide you as to what to focus on and what to avoid.
- Avoid complex structures and too sophisticated vocabulary, unless you feel confident about what you are writing. Most of the times, attempts to present simple ideas in a complicated manner fail.
- Keep the letter brief and concise. Most applications specify how long the essay should be but in case they do not, limit yourself to *one* page single-spaced (or the equivalent double-spaced).
- Proof-read and check your essay to make sure that there are no grammatical or typing errors. Preferably have others to look over essay and offer suggestions.

### Outline of letter

What follows is only an approximate outline of your statement of purpose:

- Your beginning can be original, however, unless you have a good initial statement that fits in the context of your application, opt for a regular introduction.
- Your first paragraph might address why you are interested in a particular area of law.
- After mentioning your upbringing and pre-university education and having explained how they relate to your interest in your chosen area of law, spend a few sentences on your university experiences that

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are relevant to your intended career. Do not enter into too many details, unless you strongly believe that they are relevant for your intended career.

- Following that, move on to outline how you think that your past research/studies/work experiences are specifically relevant to the field you are interested to study abroad.
- The next stage is to talk about your goals in the school you are applying to and what you hope to learn and gain while you are there. It is not by definition prohibited to express confidence in your ability to be successful there but be careful not to sound over-confident.
- Explain also why the programme you are applying to is a good choice for your academic or professional goals and how the coursework you intend to do relates to your course of studies at UNILU.
- Allow one paragraph that you change for each school, if you are applying to more than one universities with possibly diverging programmes.
- In some cases, it might prove useful to mention what type of work you would like to be doing after you complete your studies but focus on how the particular exchange programme you are applying to will help you prepare for this type of work.
- As this is an exchange programme avoid any reference to intentions you may have to remain in the host country for work or other purposes, other than studies. Apart from possible problems with applying for a visa, such interests run counter to the ideals of an exchange programme and are not endorsed by UNILU.