

Motivational Letter

There is a famous old classic song by an Ethiopian singer Alemayehu Eshetu called “*temare lege*” it closely translates in English to “*learn my child*”. Parents use this song and phrases from its lyrics when they try to explain the fruits of education and the sacrifices they are making, to give their children the opportunities they never themselves had. My parents usually did and like most parents they provided me with best education and resources they could afford. Fortunately, by the time I was born affordable private schools were opening and my parents decided to enroll me in one. As a result, I was able to see firsthand how valuable a quality education is; as both a path to personal and intellectual development. Thus, I want to continue further in this path to prepare myself for a future career by getting my Graduate Degree.

Entering college, it wasn't clear to me that studying Mechanical Engineering was the right choice for me. Amidst this lack of clarity, even though during high school I was in the top ten of my class, for the first half of my bachelor's degree I struggled to maintain even an average grade. As I entered the second half of my bachelor's degree, I increasingly got immersed in the discipline and developed my desire to learn more about engineering. Through my internship placement at a local design and manufacturing firm, I was able to effectively apply what I learned in a working environment. I especially became interested in how product design and development transform the lives of many.

Consequently, during my final year, I was working on my final year thesis on the automation of the injera preparing process. Injera is considered a staple food for most Ethiopians, which is consumed more than once a day. Our solution was to automate the production method and standardize the quality of injera. The project was an exciting and challenging task and of vital importance. Since the mass production of Injera, with an efficient production system, would eliminate the travail process and the large amount of energy required to make one in almost every household in Ethiopia and consequently, reduce the price of Injera.

After I graduated, I founded Temba Metal Works and Engineering Plc with two of my project teammates. I am currently working as the Deputy General Manager in this startup company and it has been one the most challenging and exciting journey of my life. TEMBA is an incorporated organization, which designs, manufactures products and provide consultation services to a wide and diverse customer base. During this past three years at TEMBA, I have gained invaluable insights and skills that improved my personal and professional attributes. As the Deputy General Manager, I aim to lead TEMBA Metal Works and Engineering Plc to become one of the fastest growing manufacturing companies in Ethiopia.

Through my studies and my experience in mechanical engineering from a work standpoint, I've come to see that my career choice is correct. This has fueled my ambition to get a postgraduate degree and further work in the engineering industry. Therefore, I have my sights firmly set on a career in the manufacturing engineering sector; specifically, a role which can combine my interest in business and management with the expertise required of engineers. For this reason, I would like to build on the knowledge that I have gained whilst at Addis Ababa University and the experience that I have acquired over the past three years at TEMBA, by enrolling at TU GRAZ for the Master's programme in Production Science and Management.

In April 2018 I got the chance to visit Austria and stayed in Vienna for one week. During my stay, I had the chance to meet with my elementary school classmate who came abroad to study. Through him, I witnessed how studying in Austria had shaped and made them be a leading professional and how they enriched their experience by integrating themselves in the diverse multicultural environment Austria encapsulates. For me, studying at the TU GRAZ would be as much about the experience as it is about the qualification. I will be studying amongst other professionals and have great networking opportunities. I'll get the chance to interact with fellow students, the teaching staff and the community around the University.

As a co-founder and Deputy General Manager of a start-up manufacturing company, an MSc in Production Science and Management will equip me with the business know-how needed to develop and scale my business. I am confident that I can acquire the essential knowledge and practices needed to scale and manage projects of my business; while also honing a new outlook on life and the business world by developing my soft skills and professionalism. I am certain studying the Master's programme in Production Science and Management will be an eye-opening experience for my future endeavors and adjust my mind for the better. Furthermore, with my graduate degree I will be able to contribute to the solutions for the challenges that exist across my field in Ethiopia, as well as gain a better cultural understanding of the world around me. I believe TU Graz will give me the finest and inclusive platform to achieve these and more at the highest level of competence.