

I am writing this letter to express my interest in applying to the Queen Mary University of London in order to continue my postgraduate education in the field of international dispute resolution and arbitration.

I will begin by briefly explaining what led to my journey and interest in the field of law in general and dispute resolution and international arbitration specifically. This started in the High School, which specialised in the studies of social science. I studied German, English, Ottoman Turkish, philosophy, sociology, literature and history for five years. Alongside these subjects, I organised many social projects, which began to strengthen and shape my identity and understanding as a social scientist. To express my determination in this field I wanted to go to University - Faculty of Law, Turkey's oldest and one of the most prestigious universities in the department of law. This university has one of the most competitive entrance exam requirements. My hard work and dedication paid off as I was successful in obtaining a place, and in June 2014 I graduated from the Faculty of Law.

During the modules I undertook in the law program, including various disciplines such as International Law, Law of International Organization, Philosophy and Sociology of Law, Commercial Law and Private International Law, I acquired a high interest and I took pleasure working on the various and diverse courses which helped me authenticate information and ideas about higher academic studies.

Thanks to these courses, I have realized that international commerce is a natural part of everyday life and it constructs easier communication between governments and people from different nationalities. Especially in the context of commercial communication, government boundaries are becoming unimportant for the individuals. In other words, international commerce helps to develop new and distinctive organizations and communities leaving identities and boundaries aside. Issues of law, which materialise during this process are handled and resolved by international organizations. As Turkey is a developing country, International Commerce and International Dispute Resolution are increasingly becoming more important. At the end of these modules I was more intrigued by the theories and cases regarding arbitration, international dispute resolution and the building process of the unique international organization and unions.

At the beginning of last year I saw a declaration on the faculty board announcing that the international arbitration postgraduate module will commence. As a final year student I deliberated with one of the most renowned professors in Turkey in the field of arbitration and explained that I wanted to undertake and further my lessons in this module. I was given permission to enrol in all the lessons regarding the module throughout the year, of which I learnt extensively and have attended the module with great interest. I have learned about the definition and legal regime of international arbitration and Turkey's perspective about alternative dispute resolution. I also acquired the opportunity to learn the basic meaning of Ad Hoc arbitration and the arbitration centres such as ICSID, WIPO, ICC, CAS, LCIA and their supplementary structures. Also, I gained an idea about the rules of law of the ICC, UNCITRAL, ICSID and New York Convention. During this module, I read articles in relation to arbitration, international commerce, negotiation theories, international organization, communication, body language, dispute resolution as well as that I developed my research and writing skills. This international arbitration module provided me with the rudiments of this field and encouragement to continue my postgraduate studies in international dispute resolution and arbitration.

While undertaking the postgraduate module in international arbitration which I took voluntarily, I gained a strong interest and desire to understand the perspective of the Middle East in international arbitration and alternative dispute resolution. Therefore I read several analyses and research from national and foreign sources for a whole year of which I then prepared a 7500 word research thesis which I also

later presented to a panel: In my research, I tried to answer this question: Although substantially religious and cultural aspects portray arbitration procedures; familiar to the region, why has its use diminished since then?

After graduating I started my internship within the Istanbul Bar Association and since then I have been working as an intern at a prestigious law firm in Istanbul. My duties included shadowing members of staff and attending court in order to attain first hand experience of court proceedings. As well as that, my duties have involved information gathering for my colleagues, speaking to clients, as well as discussing ideas with fellow members of staff. I have found my time at the office to be invaluable, as this has increased my interest in the study of law and more importantly it has also shown me the need to further my knowledge and skill-base.

Apart from my academic interests, I am also a youth worker and have volunteered for the between 2010-2013, which is an NGO that aims to create equal opportunities for underprivileged youth groups to develop and express themselves. As a member of the European Union Commission in I have great interest in understanding different cultures and I believe this is one of the main factors why I am an active participant of the 'Youth in Action' projects. This interest has led me to travel around Europe such as London, Paris, Berlin and Bucharest. Also we organised a number of national and international projects. One of which was the Turk-Arab Youth Congress, first launched three years ago. The youth assembly is designed as a platform to encourage young intellectuals to discuss humanitarian, economic and political perspectives of the region. My responsibilities included the planning of the project and coordinating the organization team. These congresses aided me to network with intellectual youth from various countries and learn about the problems of the region further. Besides, each year after listening to the invited experts on a selected topic - determined in advance - we tried to develop solutions for these issues at roundtables such as the 'Arab Spring' and the continual problems faced by the Arab youth in the region. As well as that, we discussed the role of the Turkish youth and how together; solutions can be drawn regarding the volatility of the region.

It is from my educational background along with my short experience that has instilled in me the desire to study at Queen Mary's, especially in The School of International Arbitration. In Turkey we are well aware of the reputation of Queen Mary's School of International Arbitration. I consider myself to be a student who loves to discuss and be an active participant in the classroom. I am also keen to learn ideas from an environment that is the leader in the field. I am increasingly interested in the modules of '*Alternative Dispute Resolution*', '*International and Comparative Commercial Arbitration*' and '*International Trade and Investment Dispute Settlement*'. This is so that I can learn the most current ideas regarding arbitration studies. I feel that I can greatly contribute with my ideas, experience and knowledge to a classroom and department as a whole, especially one that encourages student participation and the learning of new approaches. It is for these reasons that I wish and hope to study at Queen Mary's as it is my long term ambition to become a good academic in International Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution, to be able to create applicable new theories and models in dispute resolution.

Yours Sincerely,

....