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Business School Personal Statement

With my father being from India, a practicing Hindu and an engineer working across the globe and my mom being Swiss, a practicing Mormon and a language teacher, I was exposed to different cultures, perspectives and beliefs at an early age. I grew up and now live in Switzerland, but have worked, studied and travelled in Europe, the US, the Middle East, India and Africa.

I've always had a strong interest in international affairs and my undergraduate and graduate studies provided me with an academic framework and a toolkit for cross-cultural management. My experience at the Fletcher School was as much shaped by the course work and my professors as it was by the interaction with my classmates. My eclectic study group for the late Professor XXXX "International Law" course included US Navy Seal Gregg, Serbian UN worker Ivana, and Tenzin, who worked as a personal assistant to the Dalai Lama. We all had unique perspectives which provided for fascinating, enriching discussions. Our conversations often continued late into the night and our friendships have persisted to this day – 14 years after graduation. Reading about the unique approach of the Georgetown-ESADE GEMBA, I was reminded of my cherished time at Fletcher. I believe that the GEMBA would prove an equally stimulating and diverse learning environment.

My Christian faith significantly informs my conduct and my outlook on life. I have high personal and professional ethics and believe in the importance of community service and altruism (I serve on the board of two charitable foundations). (I also am actively involved in my church congregation, serving as a youth group leader for more than ten years and teaching a variety of classes.) I thoroughly enjoy teaching and interacting with young people and supporting them in their endeavors.

I have always been intellectually curious and ambitious. At school, I enjoyed and performed well in most subjects, with the exception of handicraft (a required course for girls). Apart from international relations, my interests range from positive psychology to art, music, sports, healthcare, and finance. My career path reflects these diverse interests: I have worked in equity research at a large international investment bank and in business development at the global leader in dental implants. (For the past six years, I have pursued a career as an investment manager in the family office of a wealthy Jewish family in Switzerland.) A common thread in all my jobs has been that I have employed my strong interpersonal and cross-cultural competence and analytical skills. In my positions, I have also enjoyed leading and participating in project teams across different functions and countries.

I have reached a plateau in terms of my learning curve at my current job. At the same time, our principal recently turned 65 and is downsizing operations, rendering my position less interesting. I am therefore at a crossroads and can either seek a new career opportunity or pursue an executive education to upgrade and expand my knowledge and skill-set and gain fresh insights before eventually changing jobs. I believe that pursuing the latter path would also provide me with an opportunity to pause, take stock, and learn more about myself. Such increased self-awareness will be meaningful both on a personal and professional level.

After researching different executive MBA programs, talking to alumni, and attending a QS fair in London, I am convinced that the Georgetown-ESADE GEMBA program provides the best fit for me: First, I am seeking a truly global program, both in terms of venues as well as classmates to expand my global exposure and understanding. Second, I am looking for a program that offers a broader approach than traditional business schools. The geopolitical as well as Latin angle of the program appeals to me. I also like the integrative approach. (For example, the popular, co-taught "International Business Management" course sounds very exciting. Third, I am excited that) the program can accommodate my current job and personal life through its modular setup over a condensed period. I believe that I would be well suited to benefit from and to contribute to classroom learning and exchange in the GEMBA program, thanks to my unique mix of interests, skills and experiences.

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