Dear Sir or Madame:

It is my delight to write to you to apply for a place in Latin American studies. My first impression of Latin America began with an episode of a TV program called Around the World, talking about the Amazon rainforest. From then on, the mysterious rainforest and its magnificent animals came into the dreams of a girl living in the northeast of China.

Enthusiasm for the distant world grew with age and increased knowledge. I decided to use a more direct way than watching a documentary to understand the distant world. When I entered university, I choose Portuguese as my major. In addition to learning a foreign language that I love, other courses deeply inspired me. [The introduction to sociology] made me start questioning the way we live and encouraged me to think more about what I read in the newspaper and in academic books. In particular, it is fascinating to see how social problems are constructed and dealt with through public policy. In the third year of college, I went to the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (Porto Alegre, Brazil) as an exchange student, continued to study Portuguese, and began to explore the Brazilian culture. Of all the courses, the most impressive was Brazilian film. Because in movies like Elite Squad and God City, Brazilian society is very different from what I felt in campus life. Brazilian film is full of injustice, corruption, and violence. At the time, I thought that might be an artistic exaggeration of the dark side of society. However, my opinion changed quickly after graduating from college.

I joined an energy infrastructure construction company, working as a member of the commercial department. Since the beginning of my career, I have worked at the branch office in Rio de Janeiro, which is the Latin American Regional Headquarters of the company. In this role, I experienced the 2014 World Cup and the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. However, life in Brazil is much more than just joyful and exciting memories. In the last six years, I have gone through three robberies. On the way back from home, I was nearly hurt when passively involved in the protests taking for the improvement of former presidents Dilma Rousseff. Several times during the bidding for the new construction project, the company was required to sign a statement that it did not have a relationship with the companies involved in the anti-corruption investigations into SOCAR. This strict action even implicated four former Peruvian presidents.

The Latin American countries and the development of the energy market in Latin America. During the study, I was exposed to a considerable quantity of information, which challenged me when using it to get to a conclusion. Then I made up my mind to pursue a master's degree in Latin American studies, aiming to gain more knowledge of this area and a scientific way of understanding and empathy. My educational and professional experiences have equipped me with the initiative, passion, competence, and commitment necessary to complete the master's programme in Latin American Studies.

I applied to study Latin American Studies at Leiden University because the programme compactly meshes a number of my academic interests together, including Latin American culture, politics, and sociology. Of all the courses, the most impressive was about Brazilian film. Because in movies like Elite Squad and God City, Brazilian society is very different from what I felt in campus life. Brazilian film is full of injustice, corruption, and violence. At the time, I thought that might be an artistic exaggeration of the dark side of society. However, my opinion changed quickly after graduating from college.

When I reviewed the course of [Latin America studies] of Leiden University, especially the public policy track, I felt that I had found the right curriculum, because the programme compactly meshes a number of my academic interests together, including Latin American culture, politics, and sociology. At the same time, Portuguese and my work experience in Brazil can also be helpful. [The university not only has courses about the fast-changing nature of current state-civil society relations in this region] but also offers the chance to do fieldwork research on specific programmes implemented by state agencies as well as by local governments. NGOs and citizen initiatives in several Latin American countries. I believe that a combination of theory and practice will broaden my knowledge and deepen my understanding of the topic as a whole. Leiden University has been an international university since its founding in 1975. More than 15 different nationalities are represented in the student body. Campuses are located in the safe and historical cities of Leiden and The Hague; making it a perfect place for regional and international asset study.

I hope to have the chance to be enrolled in the course. After the classes in the first term, I am very pleased with my invaluable knowledge and skills, and I want to return to Brazil to do another Latin American country to study in-depth social issues such as anti-corruption and public safety. Besides, although the Latin American countries and China have entirely different political systems and social systems, they are all developing countries, emerging economically. It makes sense to compare their development process and public policy. An excellent example of this is the fact that the "Lava Jato" scandal is ongoing, the Chinese government is also carrying out a series of anti-corruption actions.

[Latin America studies] is the path I want to take, leading to the career I strive for and to the life, no matter how challenging. I intend to live.

Thank you for considering my request. I look forward to your positive response.

Yours faithfully,
Name Surname