

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Introduction

I want to introduce myself as Mr. Likan Shrestha, a permanent resident of Vijayapur, Dharan 14, Sunsari, Nepal. From my early childhood till today, one of my most remarkable characteristics has been my curiosity to learn new things. I strongly believe in hard work and dedication for success. I was born on November 27th, 1993. There are four members in my family including my father, mother, me and sister. My family has always been supportive towards my education endeavors, providing me full financial support and inspirational throughout.

As a Computer Engineer, I look for postgraduate study to refine my insights and capabilities in the area of information technology. The undergraduate courses enabled me to develop my fundamentals, which I feel are not enough and thus it necessitates me to look for specialization. Thus, to enhance my capabilities and achieve my future goal of working as a Senior Software Engineer and contribute towards the development of IT in Nepal, I want to pursue my further education in Master of Technology (Software Engineering) from ATMC, Federation University, Australia.

Academic Background

As for my academic details, I have completed my School Leaving Certificate (SLC) from Eureka Higher Secondary School of Dharan, Sunsari in 2010 A.D with 79.5%. After that I joined higher secondary level in science stream with physics and mathematics as majors and completed in the year 2012 A.D with first division (71%) from Dharan Higher Secondary School. My passion with computer started to grow when I was introduced to computer science course in my school at grade VI. I was completely attracted by computer games at that time and was dumbfounded to know that games are nothing but programs. Curious to know how to program, I developed a serious interest in programming languages. This keen interest in computers —particularly programming languages prompted me to choose engineering with Computer Science as my major. I earned my undergraduate degree in Computer Engineering in one of the most reputed university of Nepal (Tribhuvan University) and I was graduated on November, 2016 with 72.64% from Eastern Region Campus, Institute of Engineering (IOE), Tribhuvan University, Dharan.

Work Experience

After the completion of my undergraduate, I began an internship as a Java Developer at well-known IT Company (Pragmatic Technology) since 3rd Feb 2017 for three months. During my internship, I got an opportunity to learn and experience in the practical environment. At the end of my intern period, I was

offered for the permanent employee in the same IT Company from 4th May to till now, looking after my sincerity and dedication to the work. I am given with the designation of Java Developer and my responsibilities are Database Design, Modules Development, Testing, System Deployment, using Project Management Tools, and Website Development. During this period, my duties are allocated by IT Manager. Eventually having some work experience in IT field and continuing my job, I decided to pursue Master's degree in the field of information technology because I realize that there is still so much to learn how to work in real environment. Also, I wanted to get comprehensive knowledge of software development and other aspects of IT. I am sure pursuing my Master Degree from ATMC, will assist me to gain skills in new technologies that have developed in their field and in this highly competitive global marketplace. After deciding to further continue my study in abroad, I started attending different seminars and in the meantime, I also knew that being an overseas student, I need to provide an English proficiency certificate with my academics for my admission. Thus, I appeared in the IELTS test on 17th June 2017 and acquired overall score of 6.5 with no individual band score less than 6, which meets the entry requirement as well.

Why not Nepal

After taking decision to upgrade my academic qualification, I started doing a research in the different universities and the courses provided on different program. In my research, I did not find the institutions and the academic process here in Nepal attractive as in foreign universities. There are only few universities in Nepal where Master of Information Technology program is offered and the courses offered in the program are much similar to the courses offered in the undergrad with constrained choices for specialization. In those universities, theoretical approach is heavily focused as the teaching method rather than practical knowledge. There is lack of recent equipment and tools required for practical skills as old and unsystematic labs are being used from ages which, I believe, might not be the most gainful and successful approach to fuel my interest to learn. They are constantly following the identical same pattern, without change in curriculum and instructing methodologies. In addition to lack of focus on interactive and applied learning, the courses offered are not diagnosed globally. On the other side, I will get an incredible chance to meet students from various countries and become lifelong friends, learn self-reliance, experience new culture, gain independence, share thoughts and knowledge if I study outside Nepal. Thus, to get a higher quality of education that is centered on real world experience and for wider professional opportunities I made a decision to travel overseas for my further study.

Why not other countries

I have researched on various study destinations for my further study such as USA, UK, Canada and Australia. In my research, I found Australia more comfortable and suitable while comparing these other entire study destinations. Australia ranks as the most attractive destination for global students after USA and UK. Regarding USA, there is a high crime rate and the expenses of students for living and tuition fees for the university are also high. Universities in Europe give free education to the students; however, I wanted to opt for a primarily English-speaking country. The rules and regulations for global students are significantly friendlier as in contrast to USA, Canada and UK. The universities in Australia are directed by the government so the quality of teaching is assured. Additionally, educational charges and living expenses are relatively lower when contrasted with USA and UK. The most important factor for me is climatic conditions where I found that UK and Canada have unfavorable climatic conditions; however, Australia has comparative climatic conditions like my home country. Australia has a safe, green, friendly, amicable society which helps to be in our comfort zone and make best use of the opportunities offered.

Reason for choosing Australia

The main purpose behind deciding Australia as a destination for my further study are its worldwide recognized degree, secure and amicable society, excellent practical based education system, welcoming people, world class research, high standard of living, multicultural society, wider profession opportunities and many more. Australian degree is worldwide recognized due to which graduates from Australian universities are highly sought after and this will definitely help me to get appropriate job in my home country. Australian education system is much practical based and I can take the benefits of country's mind-blowing technology and research resources, which makes a real difference. Similarly, Australia welcomes a huge variety of overseas students which will provide me opportunity to learn with students from various countries and get acquainted with different cultures. To ensure that the student's rights and futures are secured, the Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) provides various services such as defending the tuition fees and rights of the students. Australian government carefully regulates this system to maintain high standards of education. Moreover, the introduction of Tuition Protection Service (TPS) has further strengthened the protection of global student's rights. TPS ensures that worldwide students are capable to either complete their education in another course or with another institution or receive a refund of their unspent tuition fees. Also, Australia has the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) which enables providers to provide courses to overseas students studying in Australia on student visas. Additionally, after the course students are eligible for Post Study Work (PSW) in Australia which can be utilized to gain experience of international

work environment and understanding of organizational work style. Based on my research over the internet correspondence with acquaintances, the secure environment, religious freedom and sound economic conditions all speak about Australia for themselves. Along with this, there is also opportunity of scholarship, which can help to lower the cost of studying Australia for international students.

Why Sydney

I choose ATMC-Sydney because there are many good reasons behind it. Sydney is the capital of New South Wales and largest city which is popular destination for international education to overseas students. Sydney is a secure city and known for its utmost security and safety. As an international student to study and work in a safe city is my first priority. Also, Sydney has low crime rates in comparison to other cities. Moreover, Sydney has affordable living expenses and is also accounted as one of the most well facilitated city of Australia that has number of renowned education provider. I believe Sydney to be a best choice for my higher education as it provides quality education to the students. One of the good factors of Sydney is the climate which is favorable and very similar to my Nepal. Hence, this is the best place to study as it provides an insights into dealing with multicultural society that has various and better lifestyle.

Reason for choosing ATMC affiliated to Federation University

I have explored about various universities of Australia for postgraduate degree at similar course and got information about other universities like Western Sydney University, The University of Sydney, University of the Sunshine Coast, Victoria University and so on. In comparison to these universities, I realized that the course of ATMC-Federation University is the best option for me in terms of courses, teaching facilities, tuition fee, teaching location and international student support. I was looking for the university which could provide me quality education at an affordable cost. Considering the tuition fee of Federation University costs around AUD \$ 25,500 annually in which I have got 20 % scholarship which makes AUD \$ 20,400 per annum for me as per the website for 2018 intake, while universities like Western Sydney University has AUD \$30,160 per year for 2018 intake. I also found similar course in The University of Sydney but it has AUD \$41,000 per year for 2018 intake which is comparatively higher. Similarly, USC cost AUD 25,200 annually. Also, my academic details and IELTS score both meet the entry requirement for applying in this university. In addition, the fee structure of Federation University is quite affordable for international student like me. Also the university is involved in many diverse research and development projects and technology facility that will help secure the city's future.

Australian Technical and Management College (ATMC) is a reputed educational institution associating with three leading universities Federation University, Charles Darwin University and University of Sunshine Coast provides a high standard educational skills and recognized educational qualification at both undergraduate and post graduate level in the field of technology, business, commerce and management. ATMC itself provides a pathway program to the international students. ATMC has campuses in Sydney and Melbourne and promises a very excellent and supportive learning environment. ATMC also gives great support and guidance to international students such as medical services, academic support, peer networking opportunities and counseling services. It also provides job placement assistance by providing guidance at resume preparation, mock interviews, etc.

Basically, Federation University is one of the Australia's leading universities having distinct model of learning, strong research performance and a leading reputation for engagement with industry and the professionals. It was established in 2013 by combining the University of Ballarat and Monash University Gippsland Campus. The university has over 23,000 international students and offers them flexible study options. It is the first regional, multi-sector University and the third oldest site for higher learning in Australia. It offers access to higher education, TAFE, secondary schooling and research opportunities. It has its campuses in Ballarat, Gippsland, Berwick, Brisbane and Wimmera and the university also delivers its program online and through a range of partner institutes across Australia and around the globe. It has been ranked number one in respect to median starting salary, overall employment, student support and teaching scale (QILT, 2017) in Victoria. It is a star AEN rated university and has a ranking of number 19 on the ERA scale (2012) within Australia. A student satisfaction survey has showed that this university has a rating of 86% for business, 86.2% for health and science and 81.5% for arts. These statistics appealed me to select Federation University for my further education as the academic standard of university is undoubtedly one of the best delivered by any Australian University. It offers various courses and the courses are recognized internationally and in Australia through accreditation by professional organizations. Similarly, there are highly qualified and experienced academic staffs and lecturers and tutors are available to assist students if they have any questions or concerns. They also provide real focus on the students experience and understands that each student have their own aim to achieve and reach beyond their field of interest to explore many different experience that will help the students choose their future pathways. Hence, these things made me feel Federation University to be the best options for my studies. I opted for Federation University for its academic excellence and encouragement towards the student. It provides industry related teachings and also supports further growth and hopes that I will be guided through a complete technical and practical based professional course.

Reasons for choosing Master of Technology (Software Engineering)

My aim is to become a Senior Software Engineer and contribute to the development of IT in Nepal. The undergraduate courses enabled me to develop my fundamentals, which I feel are not enough and thus it necessitates me to look for specialization. Research, education and international exposure from a reputed institute like ATMC-Federation will definitely help me to enhance my capabilities and achieve my future goal. Thus to reach my goal I have chosen this program. Also, Master of Technology (Software Engineering) is an innovative program designed with input from IT industry partners. Moreover, the courses focus in the area like system administrator, software analyst, system designer, IT consultant, etc. Furthermore, it has an efficient program structure. Also, the Master of Technology (Software Engineering) having CRICOS code 080497G in ATMC has four semesters which are completed in 2 years. The fees of this course is AUD \$25,500 per annum in which I have received 20% scholarship which makes AUD \$ 20,400 per annum for me which is an affordable cost. The completion of this degree has variety of career opportunities throughout the world in the IT sector. Some of the course contents that I will be studying in this program are Big Data and Analytics, Enterprise Systems, Software Testing, Software Engineering Methodologies, Leadership in IT Project Management, IT Services Management and Professional Culture, Software Engineering: Analysis and Design, Comparative Programming Languages and so on. The minimum qualification requirement for this course is an undergraduate degree from recognized higher education institution or equivalent and the minimum English proficiency level is IELTS overall score of 6 with no individual band less than 6 and I have met both of these requirements.

My Future Plan

After completion of my postgraduate degree, I will gain short experience of international work environment and their organization working style during my post study work (PSW) period. Also, I will have the opportunity to be able to mix with international culture and learn many more things from them. My home country lacks skilled manpower in IT department to handle the complex problem which has been a major obstacle in the advancement of IT area. The world has seen much development in this field however Nepal has yet to work a lot. Thus, I see a great opportunity after coming back to my homeland to build my career in the field of IT and I believe that the knowledge and skills that I will achieve from ATMC-Federation University will absolutely help me achieve my dream of working as a Senior Software Engineer and contributing to the development of IT sector in Nepal. After post study work period, I assure to return to my home country Nepal and work for leading IT companies in Nepal. I want to contribute my knowledge's and skills that I would gain in my postgraduate study and post study work period in the related field of Information Technology here in Nepal. Also, I can prepare my career in

Software Development, Business Intelligence, Data Warehousing, Networking Administration and IT consultant here in Nepal. Reputed organizations such as Nepal Telecom, Ncell, Verscend Technologies, Deerwalk Institute of Technology, Pragmatic Technology, Leafrog Technology, etc. are always on the lookout for skilled professionals for the graduates like me. These firms pay very good salaries per my expertise, which would be NRs. 65,000/- to 80,000/- per month and increase gradually. Besides, I would also like to analyze the market requirements and start my own startup in the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Nepal with the analytical and entrepreneurial skills that I will have obtained during my graduate studies in Australia. My main purpose, though, is to be involved in a tech startup that fulfills the ever-growing challenges of IT in Nepal while also contributing to the field by collaborating with like-minded enthusiasts and engineers in Nepal.

After completion of my Master's program, I assure to return to my home country Nepal, as my parent resides in Nepal, and my main intention to go to Australia is for further education. In Nepal, the family is seen as the most important social unit and a high esteem is put in family ties. Thus, being the son of the family I have duties towards my parents in their ancient age plus I do have the significant roles to look after the properties of my parents that are lying here in Nepal. Apart from this, another important reason to return back is to achieve success in my own land with family and friends. Hence, my emotional attachment with my family and increasing value global degree in Nepal will make me return in my home country.

Financial Details

I am fully prepared in terms of finance to study in Australia. I have already mentioned that I live in a small family with four members in the family. They are my parents, elder sister and me. My entire family is very supportive with my decision to study in Australia. For this purpose, my family members are sponsoring me. Basically, my mother has an annual income of NRs. 460,200.00 from salary working as a Sales Manager at Raj Kharid Bikri Kandra and she also has an income of NRs. 420,000.00 from the Land Lease. Along with this, my sister earns NRs. 1,306,574.77 from her own business i.e. Jharana Kirana Pasal at Itahari, Sunsari. Moreover, mother has cash balance of NRs. 4,000,000.00 at Nabil Bank for my higher studies. Thus, I strongly believe that there won't be any financial difficulties for me and my family to pursue my high education in abroad.

Accommodation

For my accommodation, after getting the visa I will book the accommodation through various websites like www.semesterinaustralia.com, www.atira.com, www.unilodgers.com, urbanest.com.au,

flatmates.com.au and so on. We can visit different accommodation websites that are provided for we international student and book it. There is another option as well of shared accommodations. I might go for shared accommodations which are best for international students who are willing to study there. In addition, I will prefer to live on near to the university.

Visa Conditions

As begin a responsive student, I must understand the obligations of a student under higher education subclass SSVF 500, Australia. Some of them are:

- I must inform my education provider and the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) my address within seven days of my arrival in Australia and also within seven days of my change in address.
- I must maintain satisfactory attendance of 80% or as required by my education provider.
- I must possess adequate arrangement of health insurance during my stay in Australia.
- I cannot work more than 40 hours per fortnight when my courses are in session.
- I cannot change the university for six months upon enrollment.

Hence, my long term goal is to serve my nation as an IT expert followed by short term goal of getting internationally recognized degree from Federation University- Sydney, which will prepare me as an expert in the field of IT equipped with both practical and theoretical knowledge. Therefore, I plan to complete Master of Technology(Software Engineering) with full enthusiasm and dedication which will help me attaining professional success. I will abide by Australian Laws and will not breach any visa conditions. I, sincerely hope Australian High Commission will give me the opportunity to study in Australia and provide me the chance to fulfill my dreams of achieving higher qualification in the world's most livable and safest country with the richest culture so that I can pursue a successful career in the future and become global.

Lastly, I would like to conclude my writing thanking the respected visa officer taking a wonderful time going through my statement of purpose.

Regards:

LikanShrestha

likan.stha@gmail.com

+977 9842558614

Sample