

# **PERSONAL STATEMENT**

My Name is Mohd Sarim. I am interested in the **Master of Computer Science: Data Science** course at University of Antwerp.

Having worked in the IT Industry after my Bachelors Degree in Computer Engineering, I came to realize that most of the job options in India pertain to the service and/or testing domains. This disenchantment with my IT job has motivated me to look for viable alternatives, amongst which the one which appeals to me the most is a career progress path that has a Computer Science Postgraduate degree in it. Pursuing a Postgraduate program in the area of **Data Science** is a goal which I am willing to diligently seek.

The importance of data in today's world cannot be overstated. I realized the value of data in today's world when I was working on my undergraduate project work entitled '*Location Based Social Networks*' which dealt with the concept of integrating the location information (GeoTag) of an Android user, periodically captured from the device, into the social networking site Facebook (when opened through a browser), and thereafter providing the user with several kinds of suggestions like nearby eateries, shopping cues, and even possible friend suggestions in the vicinity. Such features have indeed been incorporated into Facebook recently. Working on this project introduced me to the world of Data Science and its applications. It seemed incredible that through various techniques one can find patterns in the data and provide suggestions to users with significant accuracy. Similarly, E-commerce websites nowadays use the search patterns of the users to identify products they might be interested in, and then make relevant suggestions.

To further enhance my technical skills, I have successfully completed an online course '**Introduction to Programming using Python**' by Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) through edX.org. I am currently enrolled in another MIT online course titled '**Introduction to Computational Thinking and Data Science**'. I have also completed an online **Data Science course** on **Dataquest.io** which included lessons on Data Visualization, Data Cleaning,

Probability, Statistics, Introductory Machine Learning and R programming. During the course I also learned how to apply these methods to datasets and generate relevant results.

Even though Data Scientists are in great demand in every sector, I would prefer working in the field of Renewable Energy after the Masters course. The Renewable Energy sector faces several challenges which can be tackled effectively by data scientists. For instance, being dependent on weather conditions, wind and solar energy supply is intermittent and unpredictable, which reduces its reliability. Data Scientists can use geographical data and weather forecasts to predict the amount of energy generated by the plants. Any fall in the production of renewable energy can then be compensated in real-time by generation of energy through other sources, thereby reducing the wastage of conventional energy. This can enable the power plants to increase their efficiency and work at their maximum potential.

If selected, I would also like to apply for the **Mastermind scholarship**. This is because I come from a lower middle class family in India. My father has retired from his job and receives a pension, on which the family will rely when I join a Postgraduate Program. I will need the scholarship to pay the tuition fee and meet my financial needs during the study program.

I have always secured good marks throughout the time of my study. In class 10<sup>th</sup> I secured 87.6% marks with 100% marks in Mathematics, whereas in class 12<sup>th</sup>, I secured 80% marks with 97% in Mathematics. I completed my Bachelors in Computer Engineering from Aligarh Muslim University in India with a CGPA of 7.7 out of 10, which converts to 70.25% marks. I worked as an Associate Professional: Product Developer with Computer Sciences Corporation from August 2013 to December 2016. I also have a score of **8.0** overall in the IELTS Academic Module.

I strongly believe I possess the skills needed to pursue this course in Data Science from University of Antwerp. If given the chance, I am sure I will be able to blend perfectly in the work ethics of your renowned Institution and contribute my fair share to the field of Computer Science.

In anticipation of a positive response.