Personal statement

My work experience with the NGO *Desarrollo de la Comunidad A.C.* in Mexico City taught me how important a well-functioning public sector is. While education is one of the key factors for promoting the development of a country, I found that most Mexican teachers and pupils did not really believe in the public school system. Most parents who can afford it send their children to private schools. The reasons are clear: the teaching materials of public schools are not up-to-date, the education of the teachers seems superficial and the infrastructure makes it difficult for teachers to teach. I believe that important aspects of society such as quality school education, health or security should be accessible to everyone, regardless of their social background. Those in leading positions of politics, public services and related organisations need to help deliver these things.

I see myself as a person who is willing and able to invest his energy and knowledge for the good of the general population or for social groups which need support. However, in order to be able to make a greater difference in the world, I need a deeper understanding about the possibilities and limits of policy making in modern democracies. I would be thrilled to learn more about how programmes, decisions and actions can be implemented by public organisations and partner groups in order to address important issues. I am also keen on learning more about procedures and strategies which allow the running, improvement and changing of certain areas of public services or related organisations effectively and efficiently. At the same time, I want to keep developing my leadership skills by discussing scientific approaches about how employees can be motivated, inspired and promoted.

The mixture between courses on the analysis of public policy, courses with a focus on the management of public services and very diverse modules from the Political Science Department is what particularly excites me about the MPA program at UCL. Optional modules such as ‘Strategy and Organisational Change’ and ‘International Organisations: Theory and Practice’ would provide me with better theoretical knowledge and practical tools that will be highly beneficial in future management positions in the public sector or in an international environment, for example, in an intergovernmental or a non-profit organisation.

Having obtained BA and MA degrees in Secondary School Education and having studied a broad area of subjects, including humanities, social sciences and natural sciences, I am quick to familiarise myself with new disciplines. My academic background also allows me to analyse a specific topic from different points of view.

My studies in education and humanities have provided me with critical thinking skills and have taught me to scrutinise generally accepted opinions and structures. Moreover, my study of languages has taught me to analyse different sorts of texts very precisely, express myself clearly and argue accurately and coherently. I am convinced that strong communication and argumentation skills will be beneficial when it comes to the analysis and implementation of public policies.

Methodology courses, the project of my master’s thesis and a research internship at the University of Berne have given me a solid foundation on quantitative and qualitative methods and the opportunity to apply them in research projects.

This summer, I will have completed my second year as a secondary school teacher at a public school in Burgdorf, Switzerland. Apart from teaching teenagers, I have had the opportunity to assist the principal with interviews and plan the implementation of a new curriculum at two secondary schools. Previously, I spent three months in Mexico City, where I was working as part of the AIESEC volunteer programme Leadership Development Experience, for the NGO *Desarrollo de la Comunidad A.C*. As a MA graduate in Education, I was able to elaborate on, in cooperation with a task force, a concept on how certain areas of a public school could be improved, including the communication between the school administration and the pupils’ parents. These two fulfilling experiences allowed me to naturally gain leadership skills such as building a mutual beneficial relationship with different people and giving valuable feedback in order to encourage performance.

Right after my graduation, I undertook a research internship at the chair of Work and Organizational Psychology at the University of Berne in which I could apply my methodical knowledge by doing, among other things, data analysis with SPSS in a quantitative research project about work orientations at the beginning of a career.

A few years ago, I saw a portrait of the current Director of Human Resources at UNICEF which instantly intrigued me. Holding a leadership position within an intergovernmental organisation such as the United Nations or the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is a personal ambition. As an internationally oriented person, I would not mind leaving Switzerland for work.

Since 2011, I have served as a militia member of the civil protection system of Switzerland. My task as a staff assistant is to coordinate means and concisely inform the local executive about current developments in theevent of disasters, emergencies and armed conflict. Holding a Public Policy and Management MSc would allow me to work for the Swiss government at a higher professional level, for instance, as an analyst or a policy advisor.

I look forward to getting involved in UCL’s prestigious, multicultural community and to network with future professionals in the field of public administration. I am very excited to actively share my academic and professional experience and be inspired by those of others.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Egger