**Re: Application for financial aid scholarship**

Dear Sirs,

My name is Liat Daudi. I am the daughter of an orthodox family from Beit Shemesh comprising 15 souls altogether. I was born to a mother who is a homemaker and a father who is a truck driver. From them I learned to be frugal and go without many of the conventional pleasures. As a new couple, my parents immigrated to Israel from Morocco in 1963.

I am part of the first generation in my extended family to be seeking a higher education.

My undergraduate degree was in education, communication and film from the Seminar College for Kibbutzim. I finished with a teaching certification as a senior certified teacher in communication, film and secondary education. I successfully produced a moving documentary entitled When I Measure the Distance which presents the dynamics and pace of an unusual family as well as the complex life in the house of the Daudi family from my unique perspective (trailer: <https://vimeo.com/190380839>).

For my master’s studies I have decided to focus on a field of study with which I have been rather occupied these past few years – the Environment. I am working on my master’s degree through a research program with the Porter School of Environmental Studies at the University of Tel-Aviv.

The research topic I have chosen focuses on the relation between the Hassidic Orthodox female identity and environmental thinking. The research objective is to gain understanding for the existence, or the lack thereof, pertaining to environmental thinking and environmental practices among Orthodox women from Beit Shemesh, as well as the reasons pertaining thereto. I anticipate my research will provide additional knowledge concerning the relationship between identity and community as well as spread the environmental agenda; particularly in regard to the Haredi community in Israel. This will be achieved with the environment in mind and using the combination of a variety of perspectives presented from within the Orthodox community as well as facing the reality of traditional halakhic and environmental changes.

Advising me are Prof. Rakefet Sela-Shafi, Head of the Cultural Research Department in the Humanities Faculty at Tel-Aviv University, and Dr. Daniel Mishori, Senior Faculty Member from the Porter School of Environmental Studies in the Geography and Human Environment Department.

Unfortunately, the economic possibilities which I have had in life have always been rather limited and I still barely scrape out an existence. Unfortunately, my family is unable to help me financially. I have been on my own since the age of 14 and I financed all of my undergraduate studies by myself through juggling funds from my three different jobs: waitress, making movies and babysitting.

In my graduate studies I see a special opportunity for myself to earn a decent living and therefore I am making every effort in order to expand my academic and professional knowledge with honors. Receiving a financial aid scholarship would help me considerably to focus on my research and more rapidly progress as a highly motivated young researcher, despite or perhaps because of the difficulties which lie before me.

Thank you for the opportunity to apply,

Liat Daudi

liatdaudi@gmail.com