**Re: Application for financial aid scholarship**

To whom it may concern,,

My name is Liat Daudi. I am the oldest child in an Ultra-Orthodox family of 15 from Beit Shemesh. My mother was a homemaker and my father a truck driver. As a young couple, born to Moroccan parents who immigrated to Israel in 1963, my parents did not have the opportunity to receive a proper education and to bridge the many socio-economic gaps lying before them.

I belong to the first generation in my extended family to pursue higher education.

My undergraduate degree was in education, communication and film from Kibbutzim College. I graduated with a teaching certificate as a senior certified teacher in communication, film and secondary education. I successfully produced and directed a documentary entitled “When I Measure the Distance” which presents the extreme dynamics of an unusual and complex family, the Daudi household, from my own unique perspective (trailer: <https://vimeo.com/190380839>).

For my master’s studies I decided to focus on a field of study with which has greatly occupied me 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.

My MA thesis research topic focuses on the link between Orthodox women's identities and environmental attitudes. My research will provide insights regarding environmental thinking and environmental practices among Ultra-Orthodox women from Beit Shemesh (or lack thereof) as well as the reasons pertaining thereto. I anticipate my research will shed light on the relationship between community identity and the dissemination of environmental programs—specifically Ultra-Orthodox communities in Israel, and specifically environmental thinking. This will be achieved by using a variety of perspectives from within the Ultra-Orthodox community as well as by addressing the reality of traditional halakhic and environmental changes.

My research advisors are Prof. Rakefet Sela-Sheffy, Head of the Unit of Culture Research, Faculty of Humanities 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, my financial means have always been rather limited and even now I struggle to make a living. My family certainly cannot provide me with financial assistance and I have been financially independent since age 14, financing all of my undergraduate studies by myself by juggling funds from three different jobs: waitressing, moviemaking and babysitting.

I consider my graduate studies my only opportunity to earn a decent living. Therefore, I am making every effort to expand my academic and professional knowledge and to receive the highest honors. Receiving a financial aid scholarship would considerably help me to focus on my research and allow me to continue 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

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