Personal statement

My work experience for the NGO *Desarrollo de la Comunidad A.C.* in Mexico City learned 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 learned that most of the teachers and students didn’t really believe in the public school system of Mexico. Most parents who can afford it send their children to private schools. The reasons are obvious: the teaching materials of this public school were not up-to-date, the education of the teachers didn’t seem very profound to me and the infrastructure made it difficult for teachers to teach. I believe that important issues such as quality school education, health or security should be accessible to everyone, regardless of the social background. In order to provide this, the necessary steps have to be addressed by those in leading positions of politics, public services and related organizations.

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 able to make a difference in the world, I need a deep understanding about the possibilities and limits of policy making in modern democracies. I would be thrilled to learn more about how programs, decisions and actions can be implemented by public organizations and its partners in order to address important issues. I’m also keen on learning more about procedures and strategies which allow to run, improve and change certain areas of public services or related organizations effectively and efficiently. At the same time, I definitely 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 the 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” or “International Organisations: Theory and Practice” would provide me with theoretical knowledge and practical tools which will be highly beneficial in future management positions in the public sector or in an international environment, e.g. an intergovernmental or non-profit organization.

Having obtained a BA and MA in Secondary School Education and studied a broad area of subjects, including humanities, social sciences and natural sciences, I possess the ability to quickly familiarize myself with new thematic areas. My academic background also allows me to illuminate a specific topic from different points of view.

My studies in education and humanities provided me with critical thinking skills and learned me to scrutinize generally accepted opinions and structures. Moreover, my language studies taught me to analyze different sorts of texts very precisely, express myself clearly and argue accurately and coherently. I’m convinced that strong communication and argumentation skills will be beneficial when it comes to analysis and implementation of public policies.

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

This summer I will have finished my second year as a secondary school teacher at a public school in Burgdorf, Switzerland. Next to teaching adolescents, I had the opportunity to assist the principal in interviews and plan the implementation of the new curriculum at two secondary schools. Previously, I spent three months in Mexico City where I was working, as part of the AIESEC voluntary program “Leadership Development Experience”, for the NGO *Desarrollo de la Comunidad A.C*. As a MA graduate in education, I was able to elaborate, 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 parents of the students. These two fulfilling work experiences allowed me to naturally gain leadership skills such as building a mutual beneficial relationship with different people or giving valuable feedback in order to promote performance.

Right after my graduation, I did a research internship at the chair of Work and Organizational Psychology at University of Berne where I could apply my methodical knowledge by doing, among others, 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 ressources at UNICEF which intrigued me immediately. Holding a leadership position within an intergovernmental organization such as the United Nations or the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has been an age-long ambition. As an internationally oriented person, I wouldn’t mind leaving Switzerland for working reasons.

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

I look forward to get involved in the multicultural community of the prestigious UCL and to network with many 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