Being born and living in a contested ethnonational reality combined with personal attributes namely sharp intellectual mind, creativity, curiosity, ability to work independently and high sensitivity to justice and human right issues both did direct my choices in the academia and the professional life as well.

DPU (The Development Planning Unit at the Bartlett UCL`s Faculty of the Built Environment) as a leading institute, is the right place to conduct my research. It`s the multidisciplinary and intersectoral approach to urban planning on its different aspects; the political-economical, social, and institutional in central research interest (policies in public housing, cultural heritage and developing culture heritage tourism) as well as issues such as privatization and globalization, in the global south, are much at the heart of my proposed research.

Whereas UCL as a global university located at the heart of London will provide me with the possibility of conducting my research in an academic institution committed to academic excellence and quality, having links and partnerships with key bodies and giving access to vital networks, benefiting from the freedom to pursue my academic and career aspirations and one of a worldwide impact, as well as take the advantage of everything a city like London has to offer.

Finishing my undergraduate studies in law nearly 18 years ago I found later on my academic interest in human rights law, so I chose to accomplish my law graduate studies emphasizing on human rights courses. Compelled by the desire to better understanding of political conditions I achieved my second graduate studies this time in governance and political theory.

My previous master degrees both gained me tools and equipt me with the necessary knowledge of the field. The law study on the legal and planning aspect and the political science degree on the political aspect. The methodology used is combined context analyses, and interviews studied at the qualitative research methods courses at the governance and political theory department.

Enrolling to the MPhil programme at DPU will enable me take advantage from the relevant courses I took in my previous studies as well as elaborating further my research interest in spatial planning, cultural heritage production and cultural tourism development in historical cities recognized as a world heritage site by the UNESCO in the context of ethnonational conflict. The thesis I have written to accomplish my M.A in political science, conducted in intensive work circumstances, is the most relevant and contributive. The political aspect of planning and development policies in contested world heritage historical cities are still a land not sufficiently cultivated and can bear much further academic research attention and endeavor.

As to relevant work experience, I worked at the popular committee for the allocation of land and housing rights in the city of Jaffa. The work was conditioned with the Willingness to work long and flexible hours. As a lawyer, I offered legal services to locals having housing problems mostly demolition or evacuation orders. As a coordinator, I successfully organized the collective work of the committee members composed of around 25 members, arranged weekly meetings, conferences and demonstrations, as well as represented the committee in front of local and national authorities as the Israeli land authority and the urban planning public participation committee , as well as in the deferent media and also collaborated with other NGO`s working on the same issues as Bimkom, and Shatil.

This work acquainted me with the development planning and public housing challenges faced by the locals living in the city. Skills I utilized are managing a group of activists, advocating in front of local and national authorities, representing people in front of legal authorities, arranging meeting and conferences and representing in front of deferent media; written magazines, internet magazines, radio and television programs. The impact my contribution to the committee was to give for the first time legal services and for the first time to have a person dedicated to the coordination. I moved to the creation of a nonprofit company to present the interests of the committee.

Working at the Arab Association for Human Rights (HRA) I did research which focused on the housing crisis in acre old city intensified by the current privatization policy and tourism development policy. This research exposed me to the local difficulties and challenges faced by the local inhabitants and gave me the chance to get acquainted with the local community and constituted a good familiarity with the case study I further developed in my M.A thesis.

My current work as co-manager at the preservation project located in the Byzantine old village of Mi`liya gave me the change to deal with different aspects of conserving the village`s tangible and intangible cultural heritage besides to the legal and procedural issues of the project that I take care. The preservation project is a family entrepreneur. Due to sickness and mortality circumstances in the family, I contributed my significant efforts and time in the past seven years to the entrepreneur who will see the opening in the near forthcoming months, leaving me the opportunity to invest actively on my initial passion for conducting my academic research.

All that been said, my inspirations to the long term are to work in academic research and teaching being able to contribute among other things to the better understanding of the political aspects of planning and development policies in historical cities recognized as world heritage sites which are also contested ethnonational urban spaces. Also, I aspire to continue advocating political and social justice for the sake of the Arab-Palestinian minority rights living in historical cities in my homeland, namely affecting social housing policies and promoting equal production of the different cultural heritages constituting the current urban landscape.

To seal my statement, I hopefully anticipate that given the opportunity to conduct my research at DPU, will be profoundly meaningful both on the personal level and on the academic level.