

Dear Admissions Committee,

I would like to announce that I am applying for admission to "Public International Law (master's 1 1/2 years)".

The reason for why I am applying for this program, is that I think Public International Law (PIL) is an exciting and dynamic field which I want to further develop in. I also find the prospects of a career within PIL to be exciting, and I hope that admission to this program will benefit me in this regard. Lastly, I also think that my background and interests will enable me to contribute positively both socially and academically in this programme.

Last semester I took the course Jus5850 that focused on WTO law. It was this course that aroused the interest of an LLM in PIL for me. Should I be so fortunate to be accepted into this programme, then the topics that I wish to further explore in a master's thesis are subjects such as the relationship between sustainable development and international trade. Here I think it can be argued that there is a conflict between developed and developing economies. In particular, I think that questions such as to what degree is it legally permissible to take into account non-product related processes and production methods when applying for example the "likeness" test in the GATT94. Or even to what extent can Member States make use of environmental factors when construing eg. product labeling schemes? Is it permissible to discriminate against products produced with environmentally destructive methods? Related to these topics, I would also be interested in exploring the question of if it can be argued for or against a possible jurisdictional limitation within Art. XX of GATT94.

Another possible topic I would like to explore in a master's thesis, is the consequences of the US refusal to appoint new Appellate Body (AB) members, as old AB members resigned due to end of their terms. This prevents the Appellate Body from reviewing Panel reports, since there is a 3-member quorum rule in the Dispute Settlement Understanding. Here, I would like to explore questions such as what are the legal implications of a non-functioning Appellate Body for the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body? What possible work-arounds are available to Member States? And what are the reasons for the US veto? In US Shrimp (WT/DS58/AB/R), it can be argued that the Appellate Body used provisions in the UNCLOS when establishing duties towards the US. Since the US isn't party to this treaty, having the AB construing duties in this manner must seem dramatic. So perhaps it can be argued that the current predicament can be traced back to the Appellate Body itself, and its legal method? These are some of the many topics I would like to explore in further detail, should I be so fortunate to be accepted to this programme.

Besides law, I also have an interest in philosophy, and have taken several philosophy courses alongside law courses. Within philosophy, I find epistemology, ethics, and political philosophy interesting. For example, within epistemology, I think it can be argued that knowledge is a product of social interactions. So I am therefore very interested in collaborating with another fellow student in writing a master's thesis, which I understand is possible in this programme. I also think ethical reflections are important, as it can be argued that ethical perspectives constitutes a central part of human rationality. And from this, it can be argued that normative aspects are central in legal reasoning. And by me providing these interdisciplinary perspectives within this programme, I hope to genuinely contribute to the classroom and group sessions in an unique way.

Personally, I would describe myself as open, social, and with a positive outlook. I like to contribute to the social environment around me, and from my experiences in Afghanistan and ECC Norway, I do find international settings to be both challenging and exciting, and this is also one of the reasons for me applying to this programme. In addition, I also enjoy taking on responsibility. As an example of this, I can refer to my various voluntary positions, most recently as chairman of the housing association where I live.

In sum, I believe that I will contribute both professionally and socially in this programme, should I be so fortunate to be accepted. With clear interests in Public International Law, especially on the topic of sustainable development and trade, my varied background from both the military and civilian sector, along with a good work ethic and positive outlook, I genuinely believe I will be a good fit for this programme.

Dear Sir or Madam,

With this letter, I am applying for a position in the Master's programme in Public International Law, offered at University of Oslo. After completing a Bachelor's degree in Legal Science with an International Approach I am highly motivated to devote myself to continue studying. I wish to further my knowledge in what I have been studying, but foremost I want to get an in-depth study in specific areas of public international law, which is something my Bachelor's programme didn't offer. The chance to focus my studies on areas of personal interest is of great importance to me, and I have found many courses that would fulfil my aspirations such as International Environmental Law, International Investment Law and International Trade Law. In addition, I have a big interest in addressing challenging real-world issues in international law, which can be illustrated with my Bachelor's thesis where I analysed whether EU competition law recognizes a role for environmental protection in the assessment of Article 101 TFEU. As to my understanding, the opportunity to address such issues is exactly what this Master's programme offers. Therefore, I am certain that this Master's programme would be a perfect fit for my goals and interests, as well as it would complement and broaden my previous studies.

I will contribute with an eagerness to make a change, as well as a drive to search for, to challenge and to share new knowledge. I also find myself as a good fit for the Master's programme since I can contribute with both different thinking in independent analysis and passion for working with collaborative assignments in groups. My goal is to, in a globally engaged environment, gain competence that last and to find valuable answers that the world needs. Further, I hope to achieve improvements in my researching, analytical and legal argumentation skills by completing this Master's degree.

The numerous elective courses and the broad career opportunities this Master's programme offers within international law is of great importance to me. Being honest, by not knowing exactly what I want to work with in the future, besides something within environment and trade law, I am sure this programme will help me to get a more specific insight in what direction I want to go and to find my future career objectives.

My ambition to study in Norway stems from my exchange semester at the University of Bergen. It is also here my interest in environmental law grew while reading a Master's course in Energy Law. The quality of the education, the competent academic staff and the highly engaged and motivated students were above my expectations. By being Norway's highest ranked institution of education and research, as well as a leading European university, I know that the University of Oslo will meet my expectations. Thus, I can only expect with an excitement to learn from the foremost researchers in the country while being surrounded by skilled students. Also, by offering a big student society and excellent facilities, I am in no doubt that the University of Oslo is the university I want to study at. Furthermore, for me Oslo would be the perfect city to study and to live in by offering both city life and easy access to the nature, along with the great opportunity to connect with the working life.

Considering the content of the Master's degree in Public International Law at the University of Oslo, along with the knowledge I will take with me from my previous studies, I am confident that this programme will be a perfect fit for my academic interest and my future career.

Thank you in advance for considering my application.