

Sender:

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Addressed to:

Madame Joyce Blau

Institut Kurde de Paris

106 Rue La Fayette

75010 Paris, France

The Hague, 8 February 2018

Dear Sir/Madame

My name is Kavien Begikhani Suleiman, and currently I am studying Liberal Arts & Sciences with a major in Human Diversity at the Leiden University College in The Hague. I am sending you this motivation letter because I would like to apply for an internship at your prestigious institute in Paris for the summer holiday of 2018. I believe that my own Kurdish background, as well as my experience in various academic and extracurricular projects related to the Kurdish cause will greatly empower my motivation to learn, exchange and contribute in a meaningful way to your institute.

I would first like to give a brief introduction regarding my studies and extracurricular activities, from where I would like to proceed to explain my motivation and objectives behind this application.

At my university I've been active in various extracurricular activities, such as the visual arts committee for which I co-organized a cross-cultural arts project (Way to Heaven) in cooperation with an Egyptian artist, named Gamal Ez. Moreover, I've contributed to the University Student journal and from this semester onwards I will be an editor for this journal, named PAX. Furthermore, I've also been a student ambassador for my university. For a while I've also headed the LUC-RUN committee, in which I trained various students to run longer distances as a preparation for a marathon.

In addition, I'm a steering committee member of the Center for Peace & Human Security at the American University of Kurdistan, and in this position, I've attended and moderated a panel at the Third Lalish Conference for Peace & Coexistence in April 2017. Most recently, I've also been appointed the representative for the EU-chapter for the Kurdish Nishtiman Youth Network (NYN), based in Erbil. However, since I am currently fully focussing on my studies, this function is merely symbolic at this moment of time.

The most important reason for me to apply for an internship at your institute is primarily because I am very interested in the activities that the Kurdish Institute of Paris has been carrying out since its foundation in 1983. Indeed, I see the Kurdish Institute as the Cultural Heritage House of all the Kurdish peoples, as a primary informative and representative Kurdish embassy in the West.

Secondly, I am passionately interested in everything related to Kurdistan and the Kurds because of my origin and refugee background of my family and me. Through my Human Diversity major at Leiden University, I've greatly learnt about the fruitful mosaic of peoples, cultures and histories in our world. In addition to Dutch, English, and Kurdish, I will start, this second semester of my academics year, to learn French. It is from my own background and the knowledge of the sufferings that the Kurdish people have undergone, that I seek to dedicate myself to the preservation and development of Kurdish history, heritage and culture.

Therefore, I believe that my internship at the Kurdish Institute will help me to learn from the experiences of the Kurdish intellectual elites and Kurdistan's students in Paris. Also, I will be interacting with highly educated and interesting people who work at the Kurdish Institute, but also those scholars, researchers, journalists and humanitarian aid providers who visit and consult the Kurdish Institute's expertise, enabling me to a continuous fruitful exchange with these people. The internship will also allow me to consult books, documents and references that the Kurdish Institute has been preserving in its prestigious library, and in so doing also help be to understand the scope and impact of Kurdish literature in the West and beyond.

What is more, the internship will help me to practise my basic French that I would like to improve with the hope to continue my higher education one day at the Sorbonne university.

In regard to the date, I will be available from the 11th of June until the 20th of July and I hope this timeframe of 5 weeks will be fine with you. Along with my application, I will send you the LUC Internship Handbook, which will provide you with additional information regarding LUC's internship policy and hopefully, this internship will also establish a relationship of future cooperation and expertise exchanges between Leiden University College and your institute.

I hope to have informed you sufficiently for now, and I am looking forward to hearing from you and am ready to come for an interview if required.

Yours sincerely,

Kavien Begikhani Suleiman