

Statement of Purpose

I am a senior undergraduate student of Software Engineering at the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at University of Tehran. I am interested in A.I. (Artificial Intelligence), especially Machine Learning and Cognitive Science. I believe that getting a Ph.D. is the first step toward chasing my dream which is becoming a great researcher in A.I., leading to a career of teaching.

My exposure to Computer Science and Programming started when I entered middle school. When I was twelve, I was chosen by NODET (National Organization for Developing Exceptional Talents) to enter Allame Helli which is a school with a different curriculum for talented students. During my years in Allame Helli, I learned about computers and started to write simple programs. Back then, I was wondering how opponent players in FIFA99 were able to pass the ball intelligently when the game was played versus computer. I tried a lot to write a similar program. Although I was not successful to do so, those joyful moments of problem solving and programming convinced me to choose Computer Science as my undergraduate major.

Having a great motivation to study Computer Science, I studied hard for the Nationwide Matriculation Exam, and with ranking 368 among 500,000 participants, I entered School of Electrical and Computer Engineering in University of Tehran which is the most prestigious university in my country. I always tried my best during my studies at University of Tehran; hence, I received F.O.E (Faculty of Engineering) award for ranking third among all of computer engineering students. So I can claim that I have acquired a firm foundation in various areas of Computer Science.

Among all of courses that I studied, I found Artificial Intelligence extremely satisfying. In my opinion, A.I. is the most appealing area because it is where various sciences such as mathematics, computer science, philosophy and psychology meet. Moreover, A.I. is known as a young branch of science, so there are lots of ideas to be discovered by researchers, and everyone has a chance to play an important role in this area similar to what Newton did in Physics. I am prepared to start my research in Machine Learning and Cognitive Science, and I believe that I can make a contribution to my areas of interest.

During my undergraduate studies, I have been chosen as teacher assistant for many courses, and I have got constructive feedbacks from students and professors. My responsibilities included lecturing, marking exams and providing assignments and tutorials for the course. In fall 2009, NODET invited me to teach talented students. Currently, I am a part time teacher in Allame Helli high school, and now I can give something back to the community that helped me to find my goals in my academic life.

I know that a high standard of education is needed for a researcher to be successful in his career. Although University of Tehran offered me an Excellent Student Admission to its graduate program, I decided to apply to Ohio State University where most of ongoing projects perfectly match with my interests. I read about pioneering works and various ongoing projects on Machine Learning in Ohio State University, and I found them really attractive, thus I corresponded with Prof. Mikhail Belkin, and his supportive response encouraged me to apply to your university.

I am really looking forward to joining to Ohio State University as a graduate student. I am aware that it involves working diligently, and I can assure you that I am absolutely motivated and totally prepared.