

In 2015, I opted to be among the first group of students admitted to the bachelor of energy engineering at Amirkabir University of Technology. The logic behind this decision was simple; I, as a 17-year-old boy choosing his future path, believed that humans naturally have to help each other. Frankly speaking, I could not find any other major with objectives this much in harmony with “Sustainable Development Goals” of the UN. Besides, I tend to identify myself as a “multipotentialite.” Therefore, studying a multidisciplinary field, coupling engineering with economic, and policy analysis, is actually the most appropriate option for me based on what I have been able to demystify about myself.

In the first year of my bachelor's, I was miserably homesick and feeling overwhelmed by all the pressure that I had to inure to. Apart from that, I had to live in a dorm with nine people in a 45 square meter room. How unfair. The unbecoming living conditions drastically deteriorated my mental and physical health, and resulted in the unsatisfying performance of mine in the first year. However, in 2016, I managed to rent a small apartment in Tehran, which tremendously enhanced my performance. My total average climbed up from around 15.5/20 to above 18.5/20 in the following semesters, and I have audaciously tried to keep up my performance ever since.

In the summer of 2019, I went to Germany for the summer school “Smart Electrical Power Systems” in RWTH Aachen, and that was when I had the epiphany that how the research and approach toward applications of knowledge in industry differs in first world countries from what I have seen in Iran. I was astonished how they are trying to completely shift toward renewables, while incorporating the magic of power electronics in their future grid, to have a monolithic DC grid for the whole Europe. I decided to continue my studies overseas.

As one of my close friends has been admitted in NYU Courant in 2019, I was also aspiring to join the prestigious NYU in its Tandon School. I was despondently looking at its faculty members' research agendas, since my background and mix of abilities is not so common, I didn't really expect to find any matching research interests. However, unexpectedly, I saw Dr. Yury Dvorkin's website, and I was astonished how every single keyword in his research agenda matched my background and interests. I contacted Professor Dvorkin, and after telling him my TOEFL and GRE scores, he encouraged me to apply. Therefore, based on what I have learned in my bachelor's and minor program, and all the overlaps that those have with Professor Dvorkin's research agenda, I am confident that I can thrive under his supervision, and be an effectual member of his group in the SEARCH Lab.

Furthermore, Iran's economy is totally dependent upon energy, but ironically, the linking experts between technical side and policy making in energy industry have been absent ever since the oil was discovered in this country. This unjust lack of professionals heavily specialized in the energy technologies and adroit with all new methodologies in energy systems analysis has culminated in the today's sluggish, crumbled, and unproductive Iranian economy. In addition to all of that, energy science in Iran is young and newly established; many scholars are also needed in this field. Either I want to be a part of green energy industry of Iran, or I want to continue my career in its academia, this program will do the trick for me.

To sum up, I hope that my proven diligence, diverse background, language skills and multi-disciplinary approach toward solving problems in research and work, stand out and meet the requirements of NYU Tandon. It would be superb, if my nearly 5 years of planning

and strenuous endeavors to thrive in academic aspect of my life culminate in a sweet admission from NYU.

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