

Dear GA,

I am writing this letter to explain my motivation to be part of the SoCo this year. My name is Amina Ali and I am currently finishing my research master Management Policy-Analysis and Entrepreneurship in the Health and Life Sciences and following a premaster Political Science at the Vrije Universiteit. Three years ago I finished my bachelor degree Biomedical Sciences at the University of Applied Sciences.

I have written this letter to explain my motivation to be part of the SoCo this year. I have always liked conducting interviews for applications. Analysing a cover letter and motivation letter beforehand and afterwards talking to the matching person face-to-face has always interested me. Face-to-face interaction together with body language adds an other dimension to someones application.

During my bachelors' Honoursprogramme I was part of the solicitation committee for the programme. This was my very first experience with sitting on the other side of the table; conducting the interviews. I found a place and function to satisfy my ongoing curiosity of people. After my bachelor, I worked for 2 years for the Honoursprogramme and during that time I was also tasked with the whole organization of the solicitation procedure. During this period, I really started to enjoy conducting interviews. It provides more in-depth introduction to new people who would become part of a tight-knit community. Which was especially important for my function within the programme since I was also tasked with the well-being of the students in our community.

During the last year of my bachelor I did a board year with my study association where our board was tasked with interviewing candidates for the board. This academic year I am also part of the solicitation committee of my faculty association EOS at the Vrije Universiteit. I have learned how a solicitation committee functions within a large association. Also, what kind of questions are truly important. I found out that there is quite a difference between candidates for the Honoursprogramme and candidates for a small beta study association and a large social science association. This was mostly due to the group dynamic aspect which played a large part in the formation process of the committees for EOS. Additionally, communication between the different interviewers was very important. Since not everyone talks to each candidate.

The past year I heard a lot about Machiavelli. So, when I heard the SoCo was looking for candidates outside of the Machiavelli, I became interested to apply. I thought this could be a wonderful introduction to the UvA, the study association and its members, since I applied for a master at the UvA next year. Additionally, I thought it would be interesting to conduct interviews in English. Since so far the interviews I have conducted where all in Dutch.

I am a hardworking, social person who likes to work in teams. When working in teams I mostly try to find the role that the group needs the most and fulfill that. I like organizing and keeping track of things. I always like to learn new things and I definitely think the SoCo can help me evolve my English writing and speaking. Even though I have been studying in English for the past 3 years and grew up trilingual, it is still something I struggle with verbally.

I hope this letter provides enough background of who I am and if you have questions I am more than happy to address them during the GA.

Best,

Amina Ali