



1) What should Oxford expect from you? (500 words)

“Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives – choice, not chance determines your destiny” – Aristotle.

It was this pursuit of excellence that inspired me to transfer from the University of Colorado to Texas A&M – I longed to acquire a better standard of education which is pivotal for success in any sphere of life. In retrospect, I feel that I should have attained my MBA much earlier. However, not one to ponder on regrets, I now further my knowledge at Oxford, an institution long renowned for its excellence.

I believe that education, career, and leadership go hand in hand. Knowing the value of time, for over two years I worked as a quantitative and contracts analyst at GDF Suez, seeking employment soon after graduation. While I was still in the training phase, the procurement manager fell direly ill and was on a leave of absence for over 6 months. The responsibility of strategic contract negotiations and all purchasing initiatives fell on my shoulders. Seizing this opportunity to develop and utilize my leadership skills, I immersed myself in my new role. The task at hand was extremely challenging and I reveled in it. I worked late into nights and even dedicated several weekends to reading contracts, attending procurement and risk seminars and, and interacting with vendors. My commitment towards excellence yielded exponential results. In

2009, our annual savings increased by 135% compared to the previous year, amounting to \$13.9 million – a new record.

My ability to shine in testing circumstances did not go unnoticed by the management. My manager recommended me for a position on the trading floor. I had aspired to join this department since the very start of my employment. However, the selection of candidates was extremely stringent as the job requires exceptional professionalism and dedication. Only those who thrive in a fast-paced, high stress work environment can survive. The hours are long, the weekends are nonexistent, and the holidays are often spent under the radiant glow of fluorescent lighting. Once again, I thrived under pressure and lived up to the management's expectations of my ability to excel. While my work leaves me with little time to spare, I utilize to stay fit as well as undertake community service. I work with special needs children at our local Special Olympics events.

It is this dedication to excellence, leadership attributes and absolute use of time that I would bring to the Saïd Business School that I bring to my work and personal life. Making every moment of my association with Oxford count, I will actively participate in classroom activities as well as community service initiatives. As I seek to holistically develop myself, I look forward to being a part of several student clubs at the institution. I would also seize this opportunity to share my experiences with the diverse and able community of students and faculty at Oxford.