

## **Statement of Purpose**

The business of education has been the goal of my adult life. I am Amina Alhusin and I have dedicated all of my efforts and learning to understand the intricacies of teaching. Now, I have my ambitions set on acquiring the necessary business skills to implement and popularize improved methodologies in education to better the lives of youth in my country of Saudi Arabia. Although the traditional schooling in Saudi Arabia has been effective to date, there is great room for improvement. More importantly, new sectors for early education in pre-school and primary school have been initiated by the Ministry of Education as Saudi Arabia looks to increase the length and development of the education system. These programs involve private investment initiatives with government subsidization. I am well versed in teaching and now I need the entrepreneurial skills which will allow me to materialize the school programs that will help to bring about great positive change for the next generation of Saudi youth. I believe that your Masters in Business Program will provide me with these skills and experience.

I was born in the capital city of Riyadh on October 12, 1986. I am the fourth born in a family of seven siblings. My older brothers and sister have mentored me throughout my life, and I have had the privilege of passing on my knowledge to my younger brother and sister. My father is a business man who realized his passion for commerce in later life after having worked for the Saudi immigration office. My mother is a well-read ambitious housewife who also takes time for day trading. I have learned from them that it is important to have a clear understanding of myself and my passions in life in order to optimize job satisfaction, as well as the benefits that I can contribute to people around me. As such, I have taken much time to evaluate my own personality, thinking and attributes. I have no doubt in my mind that my future success will be achieved through business strategies leading to improved education opportunities in early schooling.

Throughout my upbringing my family has been very supportive and fostering of my talents. My father continuously educates me in business affairs, and vice versa depends on my assistance for the smooth functioning of his real estate endeavors. I consistently help him with administrative affairs including accounting, scheduling, record keeping, and with computer work, digitizing and compiling materials. Meanwhile, I am progressively increasing my knowledge of business and work management. Furthermore, my mother and I have been investing in joint ventures on the stock market in day trading both in high and low risk stocks. This has given me a deeper understanding of business at an international level, understanding the dynamics and characteristics of trade and international market trends. Both my father and mother are diligent and have taught me to be the same. As well, they have raised me to value education and to utilize the power of knowledge in positive ways.

As such, from a very young age I have worked very hard and achieved excellence at all levels in all of my schooling. I attended public secondary school in Riyadh, where I was recognized on numerous occasions for outstanding academic achievement. I was always involved in the social programs within the school - during my secondary school education I volunteered as a teacher's assistant to advise students on school agendas; I made school announcements, and was part of the theater club. I met many friends and have been looked up to as a mentor. Until present I have kept in touch with teachers as well as students. Two teachers who specifically have inspired me to this day are, Senia, my former geography teacher, and Lapia, my Arabic Language Studies teacher who consistently advised me to study hard. These interpersonal skills have helped me to bring about positive change in the lives of those who I have come in contact with, and I plan to refine and incorporate these skills further in the domain of business after receiving the appropriate education from your master's curriculum.

After graduating high school, I was strongly encouraged by my mother and older sister, Alia, to pursue post-secondary study in the field of child education. By this time my sister had graduated with a PhD in civil law and had four children, two daughters and two sons. She explained to me that with ambition and the right frame of mind I set my own limits, and that family, education, and success, can be coordinated, and can empower a person to reach excellence. She now works in business with my father investing in real estate and other related ventures. Learning from her example and advice I am also certain to meet with similar successes in my goals of establishing effective privatized early childhood education in Saudi Arabia.

It took me six months to crystallize my plans for post-secondary education upon completing my public schooling. I had finished my national high school examinations at 93%, scoring in the top two percent of my cohorts and receiving a school district award for recognition of excellence. As I reflected on my experiences and considered the advice of my family and former teachers I realized that becoming an educator is well fitting. I entered the reputable King Saud University in 2004 and received the highest quality instruction and training in the field of child education by 2009. During my studies I continued to excel in grades, consistently receiving "A"s and "A+"s in my courses. Furthermore, I successfully fulfilled my one year of internship as a kindergarten teacher. This was a pivotal point in my education because although I had excelled scholastically and no troubles finding employment, I was dissatisfied with the lack of development in pre-school administration. Nevertheless, circumstances favored my decision to invest my efforts into helping to improve this area of the education system both on a personal and national level.

At around the same time that I had been graduating university, the Saudi Education Ministry was receiving a considerable increase in government support and funding at all levels of schooling. Furthermore, in my last years of studies I met my loving husband Mohammed to whom I have now been married for three years. Mohammed had already been granted a full scholarship to study software engineering in San Francisco and was working on finishing his undergraduate degree. Quickly realizing the opportunity; I applied for the King Abdullah Ministry of Higher Education scholarship, and received it immediately due to the national level recognition for my previous school achievements. My plan to join my husband abroad and to learn the western approach to business so that I can optimize the structures of school administration had matured. I arrived in San Francisco in late 2009 to pursue my goals and received funding for fine-tuning my English skill. I have been working diligently in the University of California, San Francisco academic English program to achieve the necessary fluency and comprehension skills for Master's study. Now, as I am finishing my English as a Second Language studies and meeting the language requirements for my post-graduate studies, I am ready for the next step.

It is an honor to apply to the Master of Business Administration program at the University of California, Berkeley. Confident in my abilities, and knowing that I have the full backing of the Saudi Higher Education Ministry, I am keen on completing my Masters under the guidance of an exceptional teaching staff at your institute. My scholarship is guaranteed and my goals are unwavering. I have researched the Masters in Business program at your university and found it to be innovative and exceptional. I am excited to contribute to these studies by combining the knowledge I will gain with that of education. As a mother and hard working international student I have a keen sense of responsibility and commitment; my mind is set to achieve the best post graduate instructions from your department.

Upon earning my MBA, I plan to return to Saudi Arabia and establish new and effective approaches to early childhood education. I will invest my knowledge and time to develop administrative and entrepreneurial procedures that will benefit the development of Saudi youth in positive ways for the future. My five year plan following my graduation includes the opening of kindergarten and preschool

facilities to accommodate Saudi families from all socioeconomic backgrounds, giving an opportunity for their children to have a strong beginning, early in their educational development. These endeavors will require the coordination of large investments as well as government subsidization and a keen sense of business management. I predict that with the combination of the international experience and knowledge gained from the University of California, Berkeley, and with my existing understanding and insight into schooling, I will be able to make this possible.