

July 17, 2014

Ms. Courtney Breen
McKinsey & Company
55 East 52nd Street
New York, NY, 10022

Dear Ms. Breen:

I am writing to apply for the Associate Consultant position available at McKinsey and Company. I am an avid reader of Economist, and recently participated in a hot debate on its forums about the policy changes that should be made to enhance growth in the US. With my background in research and as a PhD student, it seemed that the right solution would be to do a systematic study of the various policy decisions which could potentially grow the economy and choose the a few policy decisions which would lead to the maximum theoretical growth rate possible. A systematic and convincing study would help get people behind the best ideas, and would help US get back on the right path. When I proposed this on the forums, I was aware that what I was proposing was a very complex task, and didn't expect to find an indepth study of this nature. To my pleasant surprise, a google search brought up a number of studies that the McKinsey Global Institute had already performed such as "Growth and renewal in the United States: Retooling America's economic engine". After reading through this and other similar articles from McKinsey Global Institute a couple of times, and even though I didn't understand everything, I was humbled by the diversity of knowledge and talent that is present at McKinsey. This is the kind of work, which if followed closely by policy makers, will have immense impact on the US and World economy. This is the kind of work, I want to be a part of. I am currently a PhD student in Mechanical Engineering and I plan to graduate in August 2015. I am confident that my research background, along with various leadership and team experiences, makes me particularly well suited for this opportunity.

As part of an internationally renowned **semi-famous**, in Mechanical Engineering at **Public IVY (3rd in department)**, I have had to opportunity to learn the thoughts and processes that go behind performing ground breaking research and solving hard problems. After listening to multiple on-campus and online presentations by McKinsey & Co., for example by the recent Oil and Gas group, I got to learn that it's the same hypothesis driven research, intellectual curiosity and the desire to make a difference in the world, that drives McKinsey to propose ground breaking ideas. As **Dr. V. A.**, an alumni of **Public IVY (3rd in department)**, and a consultant at McKinsey mentioned, the quality of peers and the diversity of projects that a consultant encounters in McKinsey is unmatched in the industry. I have had a very successful academic career. While I love the data-driven research and creative problem solving in academics, I have come to realize that the impact of my work as an academic researcher is limited, especially as the field of Micro-mechanical-electrical-systems (MEMS) has become very saturated and mature. Further, I love working with people and travelling, as demonstrated in my resume. I have experience working in teams as well as in leadership roles, and completing tasks under high-pressure and strict deadlines.

I believe these experiences as demonstrated in the attached CV, makes me an ideal fit at McKinsey, I look forward to discussing my qualifications and potential opportunities with you during the upcoming interviews.

Very truly yours,

BIG AND BEAUTIFUL NAME