

Testimonial for the Justus and Louise van Effen Excellence Scholarship

To whom it may concern,

I am composing this letter to express my gratitude and appreciation to the Justus and Louise van Effen Foundation for awarding me the Justus and Louise van Effen Excellence Scholarship. My name is Ömer Taha Döver and I am a first-year MSc student in the Strategic Product Design program at the Faculty of Industrial Design Engineering of TU Delft. In the following paragraphs, I will acknowledge the opportunities the scholarship provides for my education and expand on my plans for the future.

Throughout my life, I have always strived to be the best version of myself; as a student from a developing nation, that entailed rigor and being resourceful. Yet, there came a time when this was just no longer possible. Studying abroad is a privilege only a few can attain, and back in the day, it was just an aspiration. Thanks to this scholarship, I am now part of that group. Amongst many other outcomes, this scholarship makes education more accessible to those like me who have what it takes to pursue a master's degree at a world-class institution yet lack the financial capabilities to do so. Thus, personally and on behalf of all other scholarship recipients, I thank you for your generosity and benevolence.

Now that I am here at TU Delft, one of the most prestigious technical universities in the world, I am eager to continue being resourceful, albeit on a much bigger scale and with greater depth. As a student in this program, I have access to exceptional opportunities across a wide range of applications. One of the most exciting aspects of studying at TU Delft is the chance to work and learn alongside fellow students from around the world, representing diverse backgrounds and perspectives. This diversity allows me to build a network of meaningful and lasting interactions with individuals who bring different experiences, insights, and skills. As I move into the maturity period of my educational career, I am becoming increasingly aware of the significance of such connections, both in terms of personal growth and professional development. In addition to the diverse community of students at TU Delft, this program offers a unique opportunity to broaden my worldview and deepen my understanding of the role of design in shaping our world. By exploring the context in which design flourishes, I am gaining a more nuanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for me in this field. I am discovering where I fit in the larger landscape of the discipline, and how I can make the most of my abilities to contribute meaningfully to the world around me.

Having grown up in one of the biggest cities in the world, I got to experience firsthand when the built environment is designed well – and when it is not. Thus, for my future career, I want to use my skills and characteristics as a strategic designer to create purpose-built products and services that are aimed to create equity, convenience, and purpose for citizens that live in rapidly growing urban areas.

To sum up, with this master's, I want to become an expert in the design field while having a firm understanding of the world around me. Ultimately, I would use my skills and knowledge to design in a purpose-driven and research-based way for impactful and sustainable innovation. I'm eager to explore new avenues and expand my horizons in this exciting field, and I'm confident that this program will equip me with the tools and expertise necessary to excel in my career.

Ömer Taha Döver
MSc Strategic Product Design