

## Personal Statement

*Intended Audience: Cornell Admissions Committee (dual degree)*

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As the daughter of a French Diplomat and an Iranian mother, I have grown up within strong multi-cultural influences. This has been reinforced by the privilege I have had to travel around the world. This dynamic has enriched and influenced me deeply, giving me the opportunity to discover different countries and their respective cultures, customs, and legal systems.

Having completed my entire course of primary and secondary education in a bilingual French-English institution, I was sensitized to both the French and American traditions. This unique experience not only enriched my perception of the world, but also reinforced my interest in the diversity of people, values, and their respective legal frameworks. Ultimately, I would like to develop an expertise in international and comparative law as a practitioner of both the French and American legal systems.

In her acceptance speech as co-recipient of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize, Malala Yousafzai emphasized that the empowerment of women could be facilitated through educational means. This speech inspired me to participate in a volunteer program for a non-profit organization called Shokoofeha-Baluchistan, which mainly focused on increasing the literacy of girls in their region. I later served the women's rights cause by organizing a conference last year on the "de Jure v. de Facto Status of Afghan Women in post-Taliban Era," as President and founder of Meydane Panthéon-Sorbonne, a club exploring the main ongoing political and social challenges of Middle East and Central Asia. Such experiences heightened my passion for global causes and their interplay with the importance and relevance of international and comparative law.

In addition to wanting to effect change regarding poverty alleviation and educational rights on a humanitarian level, I consider legal protection to be paramount in improving the status of women. For that matter, I decided to direct my attention to International Business Law. Indeed, I believe legal and lasting change can be brought about through economic means because the business world has become a key medium by which positive change can occur in terms of human rights. Among the hundreds of legal systems around the world, the American legal system is perhaps the most notable, historically and otherwise, to affect positive change around the world. Indeed, certain elements of American law are often used to resolve international conflicts. Therefore, I believe that earning an American law degree is essential to any practitioner of international business law.

In addition, my Franco-American tropism lead me to apply this year for an internship at the French General Consulate in Los Angeles. I was honored to have been selected, and will promote, among other things, French culture in California. I believe there is no better medium between two countries and

their respective cultures than a foreign consulate or an embassy, and I am eager to work for an institution bringing the French and American cultures closer together.

As an aspiring jurist interested in both legal cultures, I therefore adopted a rich curriculum during my first year of study at the *Université Panthéon-Assas*. I was not only enrolled in the LLB program in French Law, but was also a student in the *Collège de droit* where I engaged in a very enriching initiation to different legal systems, including Italian, European Community, Islamic, and American systems. I was also selected to pursue an extra program of study to earn a University Diploma in Civilization and Laws of Common Law Systems, which I completed with merit. While the two-year program I spent studying the Common Law systems focused on the law of the United Kingdom, it also exposed me to the American legal framework.

Given my background, passions, and motivation to make a difference in this world, my application for Cornell's customized dual program seems to be an ideal transition. My determination to be selected for this joint program explains why following my fourth year at the *Université Panthéon-Sorbonne* as a Master's 1 student in International Business Law, I decided to reapply for a Master's 1 degree during my fifth year in domestic French Business Law.

My intense motivation for this dual program explains why I chose to recently participate in the Cornell Paris Summer Institute of International and Comparative Law. This experience enhanced my passion for international and comparative law and convinced me to pursue my legal studies at Cornell University. My multi-cultural and bilingual background has greatly influenced my decision to apply. Cornell's dual program is thus uniquely suited to fulfill my aspirations.

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