**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

My interest in learning and teaching foreign languages began when my cousins from the UK visited us for the first time in 1985. I was in elementary school and I would learn English words from my cousins at home, and then teach them to my classmates the following day. Not surprisingly, I chose to study at a Teacher Training High School several years after that experience. My high school years gave me the first foundations for a future career in teaching and fuelled my desire to become a foreign language teacher.

After finishing high school, I was admitted to study foreign language education at XYZ University, a top university in Turkey. I took many theoretical and practical courses while studying at XYZ University. Courses such as Introduction to the Teaching Profession, Methods and Techniques in Teaching English, and Testing and Assessment in ELT equipped me with the theratical underpinnings of foreign language teaching, while the Teaching Practicum courses that I took gave me a chance to put these principles into practice.

While studying towards my degree, I also took part in voluntary teaching projects and worked in part-time jobs. For example, I worked at a summer camp for children in order to have the experience of teaching young learners. In addition, I taught English to underprivileged children in a suburb of Istanbul with an NGO.

Upon graduation, I became a high school English teacher at a public school in Istanbul. Meanwhile, I also attended teacher training seminars offered by the Ministry of Education to hone my skills and keep my knowledge up-to-date. My career prospects changed in the year 2000, when I decided to move on to teaching at a higher education institution. I was hired to work as an instructor at the Basic English Department of ABC University, a leading university in Ankara, Turkey. Ever since then, I have been working at this institution and teaching young adults English for Academic Purposes. At the same time, I have been teaching General English part-time at private language schools when time permits.

Having gained a first degree in language teaching, I am now looking into pursuing a higher degree in linguistics at SOAS. As my previous knowledge of linguistics is limited, I would like to acquire general postgraduate-level training in formal linguistics at your institution. The modular program you offer makes it a particularly attractive option for me as I will have the chance to shape my education in line with my needs and interests as well as acquiring general knowledge of the discipline. Additionally, I may also be interested in proceeding to a research degree after this one.

As I have explained, the MA in Linguistics that SOAS offers is an ideal program for me. But what makes me an ideal candidate for the program? To begin with, I know that I will fit in with the particular international climate that SOAS boasts. Being from Turkey, I will contribute to the various educational and recreational activities that you organize. Secondly, I have always been a multi-faceted student who contributes to the school environment with her talents and social skills. To exemplify, I have been involved professionally in music. I can sing and play the accordion. I was the lead singer in a well-known Turkish band for a few years. Thirdly, I have what it takes to be a good linguistics student. I have already mastered one foreign language, English, and started to study another one, German. At the moment my level in German is pre-intermediate. These language learning experiences have no doubt endowed me with the skills needed to study linguistics. Last but not least, I am a confident and adaptable person who can easily make friends and be tolerant and flexible at the face of ambiguity. These, I believe, make me an ideal candidate for an international student in a cosmopolitan city like London.

I hope that SOAS will decide that I am the right candidate for this program. Thank you for your time and consideration.