

12th Sept. 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

Personal Statement with respect to my Post-Doctoral Application

I, hereby, Mandana Taebi, am writing my statement in support of my application for carrying out Pahlavi version of the *dahmān āfrīn* (Y.60); critical edition, translation and commentary as a post-doc researcher. I express my sincere thanks to you for the review of it in advance. I am very grateful that I find this opportunity to present my details, objectives and career ambitions through this brief statement of purpose before you.

After I received my BA in English translation from Khorasgan Azad University, Esfahan, Iran, I participated in a short-term Tourist Management course, which covered topics such as Persian history and culture. It enabled me to become much more familiar with the ancient culture and history of my home country. This, therefore, motivated and inspired me to continue my graduate studies in “Old Iranian languages and culture” to explore the ancient history and dead languages of my country. Throughout my studies in MA’s programme, my burning enthusiasm about my major drove me to attain the highest grade “A” among other students (please see Tabriz university letter for List of Top Students). Eventually, I finished my MA with a high score 19.11 out of 20. Since my graduation, I have been working as a lecturer in various well-known universities in my country. I really enjoyed my career in academia and I have dedicated myself to my work working in an academic atmosphere. Moreover, in the pathway of my academic works, I decided to pursue my education in PhD level, and Finally I graduated PhD in Old Iranian Languages and culture at Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies in Tehran, Iran, once again with attaining the highest grade “A” among other students. During my research in PhD level, I acquired more knowledge of reading and analyzing Avestan language, Eastern Iranian Languages, Khotanese and Soghdian, and Western Iranian Languages, Middle Persian (Pahlavi) and Parthian Languages Lexically and grammatically, and reading and analyzing Sanskrit language as well. Generally, it is one of my honors that I am able to study ancient Iranian Languages, especially Khotanese, the Eastern Middle Iranian language, as my PhD dissertation was completed by the advice of Mauro Maggi, Professor of Iranian Philology, Religions, and History at the Italian Institute of Oriental Studies of La Sapienza University, as my external advisor. Moreover, since this language shares many similarities and connections with Sanskrit literary works, especially Buddhist Sanskrit, I was getting much more

familiar with Indian culture and Sanskrit language through my research. Eventually, I managed to finish the PhD level with the score 19.26 (out of 20). In the following years, I was able to conduct some more academic research, publish my research papers in highly respected journals and my dissertation is under publication (please see my CV).

Furthermore, the great works of Professor Almut Hintze, one of the leading scholars in Iranian Studies, particularly Zoroastrianism, at SOAS, convinced me to apply to this University and pursue a more serious education under her worthless guidance and supervision. Finally, I have been awarded by the Shapoorji Pallonji Scholarship to conduct research on the Zoroastrianism unit. So, my MA degree in Near and Middle Eastern Studies with a Zoroastrian focus was completed at SOAS, University of London, under the supervision of Professor Almut Hintze. Currently, I am conducting some academic research and I am hoping to publish my book in an Iranian publication in my country as well.

At this stage of my career, as Toronto university, especially the Institute of Iranian Studies, is one of the ranked universities, it will set me up well for carrying out the more research and developing my competencies and skills on the Sanskrit language which is one of my favorite languages. More than that, studying at this university can give me a window to the world of more research and improvement. I hope to continue my research to further develop this concept as a member of a wider research team. As your faculty is one of the leading centers in Humanities. I would highly value the opportunity to continue my long-term research at Toronto University.

My CV is attached for your review, along with contact details. I am looking forward to hearing from you soon to schedule an interview. Your time and consideration are greatly appreciated.

Should you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Mandana Taebi

Mandana Taebi