

## **Fernanda Carvalho – Personal Statement (Central Europe Foundation scholarship)**

During my life, I have achieved many things, some attributed to my effort and others I know were a matter of luck. One of them is to have in my parents my greatest examples of life: my father only has the elementary school, because he had to stop studying to help his family and had to change to another state in search of a better life. My mother, also for financial reasons, sold fruit on the street and at the fair during her childhood. With great effort, today she returned to study and is finishing her graduation. So, even with all the difficulties faced, my parents always struggled to offer me a better life than the one they had.

I am extremely grateful for my family dedication. Therefore, during high school, I helped my parents to pay the expenses of home with my internship in a Brazilian bank. As a consequence, my time to study for college entrance exams was very limited. So, in order to optimize my studies, I used the time I spent on the bus studying, always with used books, since my income would not allow me to pay for new books.

I decided on the economics degree because I'm interested in the area of public policies. I have always wanted to help other people and I see in politics a great opportunity to achieve this. Thus, since Insper is a reference college in Brazil and has a high-quality curriculum, I have applied the college entrance exam. In 2016, I passed on economics at Insper with a full scholarship.

Nowadays, I am in the 4th semester of economics and am the 4th best student of my semester. In addition, I am part of a group of macroeconomics studies and I am research assistant of the Public Policy Center, where I carry out research in the area of education. The course subjects are starting to connect and every day I'm more sure that I made the right choice when I decided to do economics. But in addition to the excellent classes, I now realize that being at Insper enabled me to have a huge personal development, revealing a potential that I was not able to see: when I entered college, my main life goal was to give a better life for my family, and today I know I can achieve this goal and go beyond!

I always had the dream of leaving Brazil and meeting new places and cultures, as well as going through the challenging experience of being alone in a totally different place, in order to gain my independence. As a child, for example, I discovered what the aurora borealis was, and since then I have always been delighted when I imagine it, but in the face of my reality, the only way to experience it is through imagination.

So it would be a unique opportunity in my life to win the scholarship from the Central Europe Foundation so that I can study at a renowned school in Europe and also travel around the countries to know the history of those places with which I have dreamed so much. Thus, the aid offered by the foundation to low-income students to know other cultures, besides the personal development of the scholarship holder, adds to their country of origin, since it can internalize good habits and reflections learned abroad, thus improving, their social life.

I believe that the institution's mission, which Dr. Elemér Hantos has also dedicated himself to for a good part of his life, to promote greater interaction and cooperation among the countries of Central Europe, is an essential banner for achieving greater worldwide well-being.