**Mardhiyyah Rafrin**

**November 6, 2016**

**Personal Statement**

Dear Selection Committee of University of Southampton,

I am always interested in diversity of computer science fields because it is widely used and helps people in processing enormous data and information. Therefore, I studied at Hasanuddin University in mayor Informatics Engineering between 2009 and 2013 in Makassar, South Sulawesi Province, Indonesia. At University, I focused my study on computer programming, database, web based information system, and artificial intelligence. However, I also enjoyed studying computer network, software engineer and mathematics.

After graduating from Hasanuddin University, I worked as website developer and programmer. At first, I was just a freelance programmer at a small company in Makassar. My first project was creating an information system for a mining industry in this province. The aim was to give staff information about what miners found in the field. Between February 2014 and June 2015, I worked at PT. Mandala Mediatama as a website developer. I made web based information systems, such as accounting and employment information systems. My role was designing databases and coding the back end of the systems. My last project was creating an information system for a hospital laboratory to record its patient’s test results. All of my applications I made with a great team, but the last one I made by myself, using PHP, JavaScript, and MySQL database. I also used codeigniter framework. Now, I am trying to learn about JavaScript, especially node js, and MongoDB database to build web applications in the future.

All of these working experiences made me realize the lacking of skills that I could and I have to study advance about it. Because all of those systems are aiming to record and transfer company’s sensitive data, it make me concerned about their security. I do not have any experience with cybercrimes yet, however hijacking or data theft may feasible occurred in our information systems. From here, I considered to expand my skill and ability in cyber security. Moreover, there are not enormous skilled practitioners in cyber security in Indonesia, even in the world. I tough this is a challenge to expand my future career as an IT experts in cyber security. I knew that my basic study at undergraduate level few years ago is does not enough to prevent this problem. Thus, I decide to study in broad cyber security at university.

Besides working as a programmer, between July and August 2015 I had mentored some individuals (students and employees) in a web programming course. This idea came from the lacking of the number of programmers in the city where I live and work. Every recruitment of new employees specifically programmer at the company in which I work for, it was so difficult to find suitable candidates although in Makassar itself there are many universities which offer Information technology or computer science programs. This problem is due to the small number of graduated student in mayor computer science have desired to work at IT Enterprises as they do not expert at this field. Therefore, my fellow and I took the initiative of a short course of web based programming. It had been held in 8 meetings and 2 hours for each meeting for HTML5 and CSS3 course and the same number of meetings for PHP and javascript course.

Since I love teaching and programming, in the future, I want to dedicate myself as an IT consultant and lecturer. As an IT consultant, I hope I can always make some innovations and products of information technologies for smart city which highly secure from cybercrimes and also take a part to reduce this critically prominent topic. As a lecturer, I want to soar the number and the quality of human resources in this field to accelerate the development of informatics technology in my city and my country.

Turning to achieve these goals, I left my job and planned to pursue my postgraduate degree at a high-reputable university. I did some search through university sites which offer computer science and cyber security program and I found several universities including University of Southampton. I am interested in the program which focusing not only the technical subjects, but also aspects of criminology, risk management, law and social sciences. I thinks by learning multi-disciplinary view in this fields, it will broaden my abilities, strengthen my passion and give me rewarding basis for my future career.

Furthermore, I am so thankful that I have worked hard and earned a scholarship from the Indonesia Endowment Fund for Education (LPDP Scholarship) in March 2016. It provides a return flight from Indonesia to the United Kingdom, tuition fees, and living costs. I also had took English course for three months at Islamic state university of Sunan Kalijaga that provided by LPDP. However, I just reached IELTS score 6.0 at the end of the program. Now, I am still studying hard to prepare the next IELTS test which I shall take in early year of 2017.

Overall, I strongly believe my strong motivation and passion on the issue give me right decision for my future career and I believe that University of Southampton trough M.Sc Cyber Security program will lead me to achieve my goals.

Thank you for your consideration.