

Statement of Motivation: Guidance for Applicants

Your Statement of Motivation plays an important role in the admissions process. The CERGE-EI Admissions Committee uses it to assess your readiness and potential for graduate study, and your academic writing skills in English.

The statement is your opportunity to:

- Demonstrate your qualifications, motivation, and fit for the program.
- Explain your academic and research background and interests.
- Articulate your career interests and how you feel that the CERGE-EI program can help you to develop and realize your goals.

Logistics

The statement is usually approximately 4,000 characters (about 1.5 pages single spaced). It is an opportunity to show your best, professional English language writing, so take care with this aspect. Avoid AI-generated text, online templates, or text that is copied and pasted from some other source. Your own, individual writing is important in this task.

Suggestions for organizing your statement

Introduction:

Tell us how you discovered CERGE-EI and what drew you to apply. Introduce your main academic and research interests, but avoid exhaustive personal history. Remember that the statement is about you; there's no need to speculate about what you think the expectations of CERGE-EI will be.

Your past:

Explain how your education, work, and research experiences have prepared you for graduate study at CERGE-EI. This section is often organized chronologically, with the most recent items coming first. Highlight relevant skills (e.g., econometrics, programming, data analysis) you have developed. Reflect on how these experiences have influenced your academic interests and career ambitions.

Your present:

Describe your intended course of study and potential research focus/es at CERGE-EI. Consider how the program's faculty, resources, or unique features align with your goals. Mention any personal contacts (faculty or students) who have influenced your decision, if applicable.

Your future:

Outline your general career aspirations (academia, government, private sector, etc.) and show how earning a degree from CERGE-EI fits with your long-term professional development.

Writing style and tone

- Be specific, relevant, and concise.
- Use clear, accessible language that communicates your ideas effectively.
- Maintain a professional yet genuine tone.
- Edit and proofread carefully to ensure your statement is polished and error-free. You may want to use an AI tool to *edit* (not to write) the text, but check its suggestions carefully to ensure that it's all correct and conveys precisely the meaning you intend.

What to avoid:

- Submitting a research proposal or paper instead of a motivation statement. Note: Samples of your work, such as essays or research papers, may be submitted as additional optional application materials. See point 6 in the How to Apply section on our website.
- Repeating your CV.
- Making emotional pleas or offering flattery.

By thoughtfully combining your personal motivation, academic background, intellectual curiosity, and professional goals, you can present a compelling case for admission to CERGE-EI.