**Statement of Purpose**

Despite their being slight indications of Japan’s economy going downhill, the country continues to play an important role in the world economy. However, the country has faced continuous difficulties in various forms, notably in terms of coping with natural disasters, the environment, pollution, energy and the need for an updated infrastructure in order to keep pace with rapid social change. In such circumstances, the design of sustainable and environmentally friendly urban areas suited to people’s daily lives is a crucial factor in the building of our successful future. In this regard, my aim is to contribute to Japan’s progressive urban reorganization and design urban structures that are both efficient and sustainable.

I have studied the methodology for solving urban and environmental issues through the process of urban structure design as part of my degree in Urban Engineering, Urban Design Course at The University of Tokyo Faculty of Engineering, and have also studied the economic-industrial and socio-political structures within Japan’s global relationships. I examined issues within both urban and rural areas at levels ranging from local and national to global, and also in relation to the fields of social science and humanities, namely, legal studies, economics, social studies, history, psychology, aesthetics and philosophy. In doing so, I managed to build the foundation of my perspective towards urban engineering. In addition, the group work and discussions that I had with my colleagues during the course served to broaden my own concept of urban design and helped me to develop the leadership and communication skills essential to the successful completion of projects.

Following my graduation from The University of Tokyo, I spent roughly two years working as a project assistant for the office of Nippon Urban Design, an independent urban design consultancy in Tokyo. Here, through my involvement in actual urban development projects, I dealt with real issues such as controlling the budget, a waste management plan and an assessment of environmental impact. Taking the experience I acquired from this setting, I then embarked on learning about the dynamics within conflicts of interest between different parties involved in projects, including constructors, investors, the local authority, residents and lobbyists.

Based on this, and combined with my previous academic and work experience, I am determined to pursue my career aim of becoming more actively involved in urban design projects that make a contribution to the formation of a sustainable society. I have therefore decided to apply for a Master’s degree in Philosophy in Architecture and Urban Design in order to expand upon the knowledge and global perspective fostered during my university study and subsequent work experience.

I have chosen this programme in part due to its top-level ranking in the field of architecture in the UK and also due to the second section of the two-year course being provided by the Architecture Registration Board (ARB) / Royal Institute of British Architecture (RIBA), the two organisations that set the standard for architecture in the UK. Another reason for my particular interest in this course is that I would be able to undertake research and technical analysis on the local residence in Cambridge, and also select another geographical area to study throughout the course, helping to further widen my views on urban development. I also expect that this programme would enable me to reinforce my understanding of environmental design with its approach from the technical/architectural and socio/political aspects.

In the future, I would like to manage an urban development project that could go on to be used as a model case for sustainable development, recognised globally. It would be a sustainable, cost- and energy-efficient design, incorporating low waste and low emissions and would be resident-oriented and underpinned by a fully up-to-date infrastructure. I consider studying on one of world’s most renowned programmes in the field to be the next step towards me achieving such a major ambition, and one that would very much be a decisive step on my path to pursuing my future career. With my personal target of becoming closely involved in international projects in the future, undertaking study within such a highly competitive and international environment for an intensive two-year period would also help me to build upon the foundation of my career.