

Personal History

Simone Testino

If the links in this and other documents are not accessible through the university portal, I suggest downloading the PDFs directly from my website. This ensures that all hyperlinks will function correctly. The documents can be found at:

<https://horreum.pages.dev/1.-Active-and-Works/Academic-Diary/2024/Attachments-to-PhD-Applications>

Brief Presentation & Motivational Statement

Even before completing high school, I knew that my academic path would focus on the most abstract and precise fields, as abstract reasoning had always been the activity I most enjoyed. This intrinsic interest led me to the intersection of mathematics and philosophy, an area where abstraction and precision converge. Before finishing high school, I began exploring these fields by reading works such as the *Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Logic and Mathematics*. The international context in which I grew up afforded me the freedom to travel across Europe and engage with various academic departments where the primary language was Italian, English, or German.

After graduation in school, I enrolled at the University of Konstanz, where I attended lectures by Prof. Leon Horsten, a primary figure in contemporary research on Philosophy of Mathematics. I pursued courses in both philosophy and mathematics, including some graduate courses like those in Forcing in Set Theory and Model Theory, which require little prior knowledge but are still fundamental to my current research. This experience significantly shaped my interests, particularly in the foundations of mathematics and mathematical logic.

To further enhance my studies, I transferred to LMU Munich to engage with the Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy. There, I undertook small research projects and completed my Bachelor's degree in Philosophy within two years of starting at Konstanz. I also came very close to completing my Bachelor's degree in Mathematics, with my thesis currently submitted and awaiting final evaluation.

Subsequently, I was admitted to the Master of Logic programme at the Institute for Logic, Language and Computation in the University of Amsterdam. The courses here have been deeply engaging, allowing me to focus exclusively on logic and related subjects. My goal is to graduate within one year—half the standard duration—while maintaining exceptional academic performance. I am confident that I will achieve this and maintain an average corresponding to 4.0/A+ in GPA by the time of graduation. For more details, I refer to the comments on my transcript of records and the accompanying letter from the faculty.

To conclude, I currently anticipate completing my third year since first enrolling at a university with two bachelor's degrees and an honours master's degree. This rapid pace is what I intend to maintain during my Ph.D.