Brice Darras – Professional Statement

I am a social scientist with a quantitative specialization. I am currently seeking a position in social science, research, data science, user experience, or geospatial analysis in Seattle area. I am returning to the work force after graduate school, and expecting to complete my PhD degree in Fall 2018.

I used a range of methodologies in my work including experimental methods, survey research, and geographic information systems (GIS). I have collaborated on projects across disciplines including electrical engineering, computer science, and psychology. I am broadly familiar with a very wide range of software applications. I have years of prior work experience in the information technology field in various settings including the private sector and both federal and state government settings.

I have research interests which would be useful and valuable to the companies operating in this area. My Master's thesis investigated the reasons for smart environment technology among older adults with mixed experimental and survey methods. My internship and doctoral candidacy qualifying exam focused on the use of norms and values to influence customer behavior. My dissertation uses geospatial regression analysis to assess inequalities in vulnerability to power outages across space.

I take a solution-focused approach to problems: a positive, can-do attitude towards challenges to find new ways of solving complex problems with many different approaches, from precise and careful planning to relentless trial and error. I have a "growth mindset" from my time as an academic, which has taught me to explore the ideas of others, learn from their experience, and build on their progress in my own work in a constant progression of learning and growing. My experience with interdisciplinary collaboration has taught me the benefits of working together with others in research and project teams.

My career goal is to practice applied social science in the private sector, where companies study the population with advanced analytic technologies. I want to spend my career working on the frontiers of knowledge. I thrive on the challenge of applying technological solutions to social analysis. I have excellent fast-learning abilities - I learn new technology skills very quickly and I love to learn new specialized software analysis tools. My favorite way to learn is to install software I have never used before and dive into applying it to a project.

I will be an asset to any team because I am focused and dedicated to my craft at this stage of my career. My short-term goal is to find the best fit for me given my knowledge specialization, methodological background, and working style. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to discuss potential positions where I could add the most value to a project.

Best regards,

Brice Darras