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My dear friend Francisco,

I am pleased to send you this letter, a testimony of my time in the United Kingdom.

As you surely remember, back in 1999 I was building a promising career in Consultancy in Mexico City, but such a future was not enough for me. I wanted to serve Mexico by becoming a scientist and an intellectual, for my passion for knowledge and public affairs has always been very strong. Also, I wanted to have time to gain a deeper understanding of myself.

So, I decided to follow my thoughts and wishes. I enrolled in a graduate program at Oxford University and arrived to the UK in October 2000. I chose the UK and particularly Oxford because I wanted to be in a world class research university and, at the same time, to be immersed in an international community.

It was in 2001, at the end of my MSc program, that I was elected President of the graduate student community in Keble College (more than 200 graduate students from all over the world). Working for them was a unique chance to get into the thoughts and feelings of some of the finest people coming from different nationalities and cultures.

During my presidency I realised that we Mexicans have to work hard in order to show the world the contributions of our culture to the development of civilisation. Stereotypes play an important role in human relations and the Mexican case is not an exception.

Thus, I decided to become president of the Oxford University Mexican Society. After being elected in October 2002 I promoted, with the help of my committee, our culture and science among the members of both Oxford University and the city of Oxford.

Among the events we organised, I do remember the First Mexican Conference of Graduate Students in the UK. More than 60 Mexican graduate students came together to Oxford and delivered talks about their research. The audience was composed of Mexican students as well as other members of several British Universities interested in our culture, science and politics. We engaged in intellectual discussions with academics, students and politicians. We were honoured to have Dr. Porfirio Muñoz-Ledo, at that time Ambassador of Mexico to the EU, as keynote speaker. In order to promote this conference as well as a colloquium on Mexican Literature, I was interviewed in Channel 6, the Oxford TV channel.

I was already enrolled in a PhD in Physics at Oxford University when I started a new project with a group of very enthusiastic Mexican students from 14 British Universities: the Mexican Student Society in the UK, MexSocUK. We officially presented our new National Society in LSE on 1st September 2003. You will really like the next sentence: Dr. Carlos Fuentes, our great writer and intellectual, was among us as keynote speaker. A few days later, Dr. Fuentes wrote an article for a Mexican National newspaper about the MexSocUK and the need to invest Mexican resources on Quantum Computation (my research field).

I was elected President of the MexSocUK in October 2003. My main duties were to build links with the Mexican Ambassador to the UK and to represent more than 1000 Mexican graduate students. My presidency is over now, and as results of our work I may state the following: the MexSocUK has robust links with our Ambassador Mr. Juan Jose Bremer, we organised a second Mexican conference in LSE, and the number of our members increased from 14 to 16 societies. In order to spread the word about the MexSocUK, I was interviewed by the cultural magazine of Mexico's National University, and I published an article about our society in the Alumni magazine of my former University.

You may be thinking: what about your PhD? Well, it has also been extremely satisfactory. Doing a PhD in the UK has given me the knowledge and skills required to build a fruitful scientific career. I have interacted with some of the best scientists in my field and I have exposed my ideas among rigorous and international audiences. Also, I have written articles about my field for both specialised and continuing education journals. So far so good!

I am interested in broadening common interests between Mexican and British scientific communities. As a start, I co-organised a summer school on Quantum Computation with the University of Yucatan, Mexico. As speakers we had 6 researchers working in the UK and an audience composed of 40 Mexican students and academics. The school was held in Merida, a beautiful city in south Mexico that used to be part of the ancient Mayan Empire. Ambassador Bremer acknowledged the importance of this summer school for the bilateral relation of Mexico and the UK by publishing an article about it in the Mexican embassy newsletter.

In summary, my dear friend, I can tell you that my life in the UK has exceeded any expectation. I have developed the skills I wanted, along with a deep knowledge of my strengths and weaknesses. May it all be used for the progress of Mexico.