**Why NYU?-400 words**

If universities were people, NYU to me appears as the multiethnic independent woman getting things done. NYU as I've gathered,  harbors the individualistic spirit. It is best for students to sharpen their independence. I first got introduced to NYU through Pharrel Williams’ commencement speech when I was in grade ten. His call for visibility as an endorsement resonated with me; it was something I had been thinking about at the time. To be humble or to be unapologetically visible, the sixteen-year-old me thought of them as opposite traits till Pharrell’s speech.It reminded me of how important actions are. It is quite easy to get swayed by words; quite difficult to make them happen. NYU’S challenging environment demands a mental presence and I know it will help me thrive.

In my journey of researching for NYU, its student reviews, reddit subthreads, I traveled a long way. NYU’s culture is close to being that of a mini Earth, nurturing people from diverse backgrounds, endorsing and therefore maximizing their presence. I, like many other students find that inspiring. When we break the walls of stereotypes and labels, we create a fluidity that allows space only for the common thread of humanity. When a place upholds its diversity like a badge, people forget barriers. We become each other's strength. NYU’s commitment to function as a diverse stage for unfaltering and unafraid voices is what most drives me to apply to it.

I aspire to look at my field of interest, environment science through multidisciplinary lenses. I find purpose in dedicating myself to a cause. I want to study as extensively as possible, to help me with whatever projects I choose to pursue in the future. As of now, that includes creating an environmentally suitable waste management program for cities (specific to the city) and my home Kashmir. I want that the project addressing the problem through economics, ecological history and political support.

While I come, originally, from a small close knit community, I’ve lived in a metropolitan for more than eight years and I know how to find my way in a loud city without getting lost.  Just as I have owned and accepted Kashmir and Delhi and the cities have reciprocated similarly by enriching my life’s experiences, I believe living in New York and studying in NYU will offer me an unparalleled experience for a bright future.