

## CV (resume) vs Motivation – How do I choose?

As part of the selection process for the Bachelor of Science in International Business Administration at Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University we ask you to illustrate your drive and suitability for the programme by either uploading your CV [OR](#) answering the motivation question: “What attracts you the most to an *international business administration* programme?”.

It is not possible to choose both, so which one should you choose? To give you a bit of guidance in making your choice we will explain both in more detail and give you some tips for each option.

First of all, to be clear – there is no right or wrong choice. You can earn an equal number of points for both your CV and answer to the motivation question. The most important factor in the IBA selection process is still your GPA (grade point average) from your penultimate (year before last) or final year (if you have already received your diploma). That counts for 75% of your final score. The points you can earn from your CV or motivation have less impact because this score only counts for 25% of your final score.

### Curriculum Vitae (CV or resume)

Before writing your CV, you should start by listing all courses, projects, work experiences, interests and skills that you think are relevant for the IBA programme. At this point in your life, you are not likely to have much work experience. This is fine. We are most interested in your **international** or **intercultural experiences**.

Your CV should summarize your secondary education, (international) work experience, personal achievements and skills as well as future goals. Only mention things that are relevant for IBA and do this in a chronological order (from recent to past). Emphasize things like school exchange programmes, (extra) foreign language courses, projects or managerial activities, starting a business, foreign travel, bi-lingual education, organizing trips abroad etc. The length of your CV should not be more than two pages (one page is preferred).

### Motivation

“What attracts you the most to an *international business administration* programme?”

Answering a motivation question can be trickier than you might think. It is very important to *read the question* well and to write a clear and concise answer. We advise you to take the time to think about the question – so start your application early! Think about what attracts you to a study in **international business** and **why** you want to study in an **international environment**. Avoid making general statements and be sure to give clear examples. Proof read the final-result to make sure it makes sense and remember – there is a 1400 character limit for your answer, which is approximately 1/2 of a page.

So, now that you know what we are looking for, which option should you choose? The idea behind both options is to illustrate your drive and suitability for the IBA programme. Applicants who already have a lot of international experience will likely find it easier to show this in a CV, while applicants who have not yet had these opportunities will likely find it easier to explain their attraction to the IBA programme by answering the motivation question. In the end, the choice is of course up to you. We hope you have fun with this exercise and wish you the best of luck in the application process.