

Motivation Letter

Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Nikolai Suhhanov, and I would like to tell you a little about myself.

I am 36 years old. I was born in a small town in Russia and graduated from Saint Petersburg State Pediatric Medical University with a degree in General Medicine. My medical career began at Tikhvin District Hospital in the Leningrad Region. During eight years of clinical practice, I progressed from a general surgeon at a district hospital to a surgeon and oncologist at a university hospital.

Working as a surgeon taught me many valuable skills that continue to benefit me today: the ability to work under pressure, multitask effectively, make thoughtful decisions, stay focused in critical situations, work as part of a multidisciplinary team, and take full responsibility for my decisions and actions.

In 2022, my wife, who is an endoscopist, and I decided to leave our medical careers and move to Estonia. This marked the beginning of a completely new chapter in our lives.

Adapting to a new country was challenging. We had to learn a new language, adapt to a different culture and lifestyle, build a new life from scratch, and rethink our future careers.

In 2025, I enrolled at the Estonian Entrepreneurship University of Applied Sciences (EUAS) to pursue a second Bachelor's degree in Web Technologies.

I knew that the earlier I chose my new career path and started developing the necessary skills, the better my chances would be. Initially, I planned to become a game developer because I had enjoyed video games since childhood. My original portfolio plan consisted of developing three small games in different genres.

However, while thinking about my future, I realized that I could combine my medical background with my growing software development skills. That was the moment I decided to focus on developing medical applications.

Looking back at my years as a medical student and my first years as a surgeon, I remember how much I lacked practical training opportunities and convenient educational tools such as desktop applications and medical simulators. I gained my first practical surgical experience directly on patients, which was both stressful and intimidating. I believe that access to high-quality educational software and realistic medical simulators would have made me feel much more confident in the operating room.

My goal is to help future surgeons better understand surgical procedures through interactive medical applications and training simulators.

During my studies at university, I developed a Unity-based desktop training application that teaches the initial stages of a traditional appendectomy. The application includes both theoretical and practical learning modules. This project strengthened my confidence that I had chosen the right professional path.

My immediate goal is to continue developing my skills in Unity and C# while gaining practical experience in medical software development. In the next stage of my professional growth, I plan to study VR and XR technologies and apply them to medical education and surgical simulation. In the longer term, I would also like to develop expertise in DICOM, medical imaging, surgical planning, and navigation systems, with the aim of gradually moving into more advanced areas of MedTech.

I believe that my practical surgical experience combined with my software development skills can bring real value to medical education. If I have the opportunity to contribute to training the next generation of surgeons, it will give me a deep sense of purpose, knowing that I have made a meaningful contribution to the future of medicine.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I would be grateful for the opportunity to contribute my medical knowledge, technical skills, and enthusiasm to your team.

Sincerely,

Nikolai Suhhanov