



# Texas A&M Department of Economics

## Amazing Student

DANIEL GODOY ROMO – MAY, 2018

**Name:** Daniel Godoy Romo

**Hometown:** Quito, Ecuador

### High School:

San Gabriel High School, Quito, Ecuador

### Degree objective:

Masters of Economics, with a concentration in Financial Econometrics.

### Expected graduation:

May, 2018

### University highlights, awards, scholarships:

I earned a college degree in Economics at the Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador along with a Licence Droit, Économie, Gestion mention Économie et Gestion from the Pierre Mendès-France University as part of a double degree program in economics.

Before embarking on my graduate studies, I accumulated five years of experience working as Economic Consultant. I came to Texas A&M as a Fulbright Scholar. This is a prestigious and highly competitive academic scholarship given to students from different countries around the world to pursue graduate studies in the United States. Besides this, I won, for two years in a row, the academic scholarship from the Department of Economics.

### Current employment:

I have been working as Teaching Assistant for Econ 202 during the last year and half.

### Family ties to Texas A&M:

I am a first-generation Aggie!

### I chose to attend Texas A&M because...

It is a prestigious institution not only recognized in Texas and the United States but also in Ecuador. I personally know former students from the Department of Economics who are outstanding professionals in the field. After having worked along with them, I always wanted to acquire their relevant knowledge, academic strictness, and theoretical foundations.

### My favorite things to do on campus are...

I enjoy biking around campus. When I got here, something that fascinated me was the respect that drivers have towards bikers. The campus of Texas A&M University is widespread and biking from one class to another makes the academic pressure more manageable. Having coffee at the Memorial Student Center while reading or at any of the outdoor spaces on campus is also something I really like to do during spring.

### When I have free time, I like...

I love the sense of adventure and very much enjoy taking photos. Whenever I have the chance to stop and enjoy a landscape or any urban interaction, I always try to naturally capture those moments through a picture. If I was in Ecuador, my answer to this question would be hiking. Quito is surrounded by mountains, volcanoes, lakes, and breathtaking landscapes. Whenever I have free time, I enjoy going out there with family or friends. In College Station, my hiking aspirations have evolved into endless conversations and cultural exchange interactions with people from dozens of countries. Being a social and talkative person, this is an activity I will definitely miss upon graduation. Texas A&M University hosts a massive number of international students and listening to different life stories is something that has provided me with perspective in life and taught me lessons more valuable than advanced classes in Econometrics.

### The craziest thing I've done is...

Climbing down in the crater of an active volcano twice! The name of this magnificent geographical manifestation is "Guagua Pichincha" and is located along the west side of Quito. The last time it erupted was in 1999. I did this not only once but twice as part of a high-altitude mountain training I was part of in 2014.

### My favorite place to study is...

Evans library. Having the opportunity to study for long sessions along with friends and next to a cafeteria is priceless. I really like Evans.

### My favorite Economics professor is...

Dr. Tatevik Sekhposyan. She has provided me invaluable guidance during the last year that allowed me to broaden my understanding of applied macroeconometrics even beyond the limits that I thought I was capable of reaching.

### If I could share an afternoon with anyone, I would love to share it with...

My grandfather. I never got the chance to meet him, and my family says that we are very much alike.

### If I knew I could not fail, I would...

Have taken more Ph.D. courses. During this last semester, I was allowed to take the class of Applied Econometrics from the Ph.D. program. Though it was a tough class, it gave me the sense of what doing research is and how challenging it is to do empirics as opposed to theory. The application is, in most of the cases, a challenging, creative, and "painful" process.

### If money was not a consideration, I would love to...

Investing in education in developing countries and visiting every single person I have had the chance to meet during my time in Texas A&M.

### What is your passion and how are you committed to pursuing it?

My passion is economics. I strongly believe in excellence and am always committed to serve and provide the best of my knowledge and academic preparation. This motivates me to continue learning even upon graduation when I will not be a formal student anymore.

### After graduation, I plan to...

Conduct research in Ecuador as a way of applying the knowledge graduate school has provided me while I get ready to be back to receive my Ph.D. in Economics. This is a decision I have made during my time at Texas A&M University and would not have been able to commit to without the good influence of my professors.

### The one Texas A&M experience I will always remember is...

The sense of community. It does not matter where I go since I will always find another maroon peer!