

Economics Personal Statement 2

Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

The questions of balancing infinite wants and finite resources intrigues me and I am excited about some of the answers I may find studying economics at degree level. During the A-Level course my passion for the subject was reinforced and I quickly sought to add to my knowledge by reading around the subject into topics such as globalization and inflation, increasing happiness and exchange rates. In books such as 'The Dragon and the Elephant' by David Smith, 'The Undercover Economist' by Tim Harford and regular readings of 'The Economist' my awareness was increased of the many problems faced by economists and the multiple opinions on solving them. One such area I found stimulating was how GDP was questioned and why happiness doesn't appear to have increased with economic growth issues that are raised by Richard Layard in 'Happiness'. Should we strive for economic growth as Adam Smith advocated or take the view of Jean-Jacques Rousseau and revert back to the life of the 'noble savage'?

Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

Studying History and English Literature have developed my analytical thinking and writing style, which were put to use in writing an article for the school Economics magazine on 'The decline of manufacturing in the UK'. I've also entered an Economics Essay prize on the consequences for the UK of the economic development of China. I particularly enjoy the logical aspects of Maths and have become competent with statistical models and complex formulae, where my strength is shown by previously winning the Maths prize; this shall support practical economic experience I took a placement at Lloyds TSB head branch in Oxford over summer, introducing me to day to day managerial problems that could maximise productivity and improve efficiency. I was chosen for the schools Target 2.0 team, where we must take the role of the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee, assess economic conditions and state what interest rates should be set at in order to control inflation. Communication and presentation skills are vital and the thorough research far beyond A-Level has dramatically increased my knowledge.

Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?



On an 'Insight into Management' course in 2007, the obvious relationship between economics and management became apparent, combining rational resolve with vocational merit. As 'Managing Director' the leadership and teamwork skills needed to run a company successfully became evident and these assisted immensely in leading my team to first place. Within the course I enjoyed aspects from marketing to finance and afterward read 'The Sociology of Work' by Keith Grint to get a further flavour of the multidisciplinary nature of management.

In conjunction with my studies I have a great enthusiasm for sport, playing 1st XV rugby and 2nd XI football. I have played tennis at a county level, was captain of the swimming team and play competition golf. After being injured for a year, I returned to rugby on the school tour of South America in 2006, and was awarded most valuable player in the final game, illustrating my rugby talent and dedication. This commitment is continued in my own time by going to the gym three times a week. I am a prefect and deputy head of house, both representing my sense of responsibility and day to day initiative. I'm a keen skier; achieved Grade 3 at Guildhall became a PADI open water diver last year. In the community I have helped by coaching a local junior rugby team and taking part in fund raising activities such as sponsored runs and walks.

I believe the skills I've acquired thus far will fully prepare me for the rigours and satisfaction of a degree in Economics. By being consistently motivated through my passion for the discipline I look forward to being a valuable asset to the University and extending my understanding of Economics by entirely committing myself to it at degree level.