

## Economics Personal Statement 1

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

The appeal of Economics to me is in its rigorously analytical and numerical elements allowing an investigation of problems in a real-world context. Reading extensively and gaining experience in the working world have helped to consolidate and fully realise the practical implications of each piece of newly acquired knowledge. An initial interest for economics and the world of finance stemming from reading “The Sunday Times” and “The Economist” grew following time spent in a range of local firms. My experience of factors affecting the global economy such as the emergence of China, as discussed in David Smith’s “The Dragon and the Elephant”, was invaluable. Such ideas on growth were furthered by an IEA seminar at Oxford University where I was fortunate enough to hear Professor Booth and Dr Diane Coyle. The economic decisions and phenomena experienced were to some extent explained through reading texts such as Krugman’s “The Accidental Theorist” which introduced clear arguments on topics such as job markets and globalisation and a host of modern examples to economic theory.

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

Alongside Economics, my other A Level choices have developed a strong interest in other aspects of the subject and have contributed to a skills base which I believe is suited to the demands of the course. Mathematics has developed my ability to think logically, which aids both the related quantitative areas of economics and in the coherent organisation of ideas in writing. History contextualises economic theories and events such as the economic crises in Nazi Germany and the post war boom in the USA which Galbraith addresses in “The Affluent Society”. The study of art has provided a unique insight into the use of creative and lateral thinking in problem solving.

My progression to the “Kangaroo” stage of the UK Maths Challenge last year displays an inherent strength in mathematics, complementing aspects of the subject. My school bursaries for Commitment, English and Religion and Society as well as being a Prefect have, I hope, engendered maturity and responsibility.

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

During a placement at a branch of Northwood Estate Agents I was able to see the impact of the property markets on the economy from a grassroots level while also



gaining valuable exposure to the balance sheet and SAGE accounting program. A placement at Cantor Fitzgerald gave a contrasting experience in a much larger firm where I was able to spend time exploring investment banking, bond trading and econometric analysis. Here I was introduced to the field of management, especially fascinating with the restructuring in the aftermath of the 9-11 attacks that devastated the firm.

The many vital interpersonal and analytical skills furthered by the work experience have been useful within the school environment, where probing into Stiglitz's work on globalisation such as "Globalisation and its Discontents" has given an insight into topics discussed through my school's debating society as well as by the European Youth Parliament Team, for which I will be standing in a National competition.

Extra-curricular interests include Tae Kwon Do and Public Speaking, having obtained a LAMDA Gold medal. I am also working towards a Grade 5 in Violin and am a keen member of the school cricket team. This year I was fortunate enough to receive a Diana award and in 2005, on behalf of the organisation for which I volunteer, I received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Services, both of which have inspired me to pursue a career working towards the greater good of society.

I hope that my commitment and academic achievements together with my absolute passion for the subject demonstrate my possession of the qualities required to study economics at university and my eagerness to broaden my understanding of the subject and make a full contribution to university life with my wide-ranging academic and extra-curricular interests.