

LAW EXAMPLE PERSONAL STATEMENT 2

Why do you want to study this course or subject?

My desire to study law at university took root in my strong international background. Having experienced the Italian, German and English education systems, I am now intent on learning about the diversity, and indeed harmonisation of laws across these countries. However, I primarily want to develop a strong grasp of English and, if I have the opportunity, Italian law. This would provide me with a highly stimulating challenge for the next four years.

Recently, I have used every opportunity to further my understanding of law. I am a reader of the Times Weekly Law Supplement. I have also found that reading The Economist has furthered my understanding of English Constitutional law, especially against the backdrop of other European systems. Family law is another area that interests me. At school, for my A2 oral exam in Italian, I gave a presentation on the proposed set of legal rules governing a family set up outside of marriage in Italy. The purpose of this law would be to give cohabiting partners (irrespective of their sexual orientation) inheritance and alimony rights. Unmarried couples would therefore be granted certain rights which are normally reserved for married couples. On the one hand this appears inappropriate, for cohabitation is not comparable to marriage. The decision not to marry implies the refusal to assume certain responsibilities, which this law would impose. On the other hand, considering the decrease in the number of marriages and therefore the diffusion of this new kind of family, such a law would create rights consistent with the way in which society is developing, and is therefore to be welcomed. Being able to examine the relationship between law and society more closely forms part of my motivation to read law at University.

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

My A-level subjects have prepared me well for a thoroughly academic course, and have provided me with inspiration to study law. In my classical studies, especially Greek literature, I have often come across the dichotomy between moral and legal rules; the tragedy of Orestes provides such an example. Here, the son of Agamemnon was expected to revenge his father's death by killing his mother. He obliges, and is then persecuted by the Furies since he has committed matricide. He attends a formal trial before twelve Attic judges in Athens and is acquitted. In this case it might be said that the society's moral convention prevailed over the law. Reading ancient works such as this has led to my fascination with the interplay between law and ethics, and my

keeping up to date with debates such as those surrounding euthanasia, a hot topic in Italy recently. Moreover, while studying Latin and the Roman civilization, I developed a great interest in Roman law, which is still the base of many European juridical systems, particularly the Italian. For this reason, along with my Italian origins, I would love to deepen this study by exploring both English and Italian law at degree level.

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

My extracurricular interests compliment my academic activities, and have enhanced my teamwork skills and self discipline. I enjoy sailing and playing tennis. I participated in a swimming competition organised by the German schools in Italy which gave me the opportunity to travel alone and to meet people who shared my passion. I have also practiced skiing at a competitive level at the Ski Club Alpina Verbier. Moreover, I developed a high level of organisational skills through independently organising a charity ball for 400 people, in aid of 'Oliver Twist', a charity for children with difficult family backgrounds.

I look forward to pursuing my chosen subject in a culturally and socially diverse environment, and believe I have the aptitude and motivation to be successful.