

Personal Statement Format for University

Example 1

It was when I earned my first pound at the age of ten washing my mother's car that I became interested in the power of money.

Over time it became clear to me that the people who understand the monetary and banking system are capable of understanding the decisions made by governments and the future of society. I want to be one of those people.

To broaden my knowledge of different areas of finance, I have read a number of different books on the subject - from "How the City of London Works" to "Rich Dad Poor Dad". I am also a regular reader of the Economist magazine.

I believe that reading such books and magazines has given me insight into topics not covered at school, for example how Japanese management in Chinese factories caused unrest among the workforce due to the Chinese workers' dislike of the Japanese management style, and how this affected the share price of companies such as Honda.

Reading about such things has made me realise how the subject of Finance and the economy affects everybody's lives, and has strengthened my desire to further study the subject.

The A-level subjects I am studying give me a firm foundation for studying Finance at University. Business Studies at A-level has greatly improved my analytical and writing skills.

I have particularly enjoyed the part of the course which concerns how a firm selects financial strategies and how managers choose which aspect of a firm needs the most investment.

German has improved my communication skills and self-confidence and has also made me more appreciative and open to other cultures.

Alongside the logical method of thinking that I have developed from Mathematics at A-level, I believe that I am well prepared to take on a degree course in Finance at University.

My part-time job as a receptionist at a sports and leisure club has given me some insight into the demands of working life. Having worked there since May, I now feel I am an able employee and because of the nature of the job. I have learned how to communicate with colleagues, my employer and of course, customers.

I often have to work alone so I have learned to use my own initiative and how to be independent - skills which are of paramount importance if I want to work in the financial industry.

Since the age of eleven, a hobby and a major interest of mine is Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. This year I won the Welsh Open under 18 absolute division and in 2010 I won a silver medal in the under 18 lightweight division in the European Championships.

My previous successes include being the team captain for the Indonesian National Children's team, where we won the Pan Asian team Championships, beating The Philippines in the final. Balancing

my academic life with the rigours of playing a sport at such a level has been very challenging at times.

The weeks and months leading up to a major competition are usually pretty stressful, but, as I have now been through the experience many times, I have learned how to deal with immense pressure - and how to enjoy the success which comes afterwards!

In addition to this, I have learned about commitment and dedication as well as honour and how to handle a major loss, and also how to remain humble in victory. The things I have learned from Jiu-Jitsu will help me throughout my life; not only during University, but during my career and long afterwards.

I am taking a gap year so I can earn some money in order to travel and to pay for some of the costs of university. I intend to keep my job as a receptionist and also to take on some teaching at the sports and leisure club and, when I have enough money, I am planning to travel around Europe and South America.

I believe this experience will be worthwhile as I will come to university with greater maturity after experiencing other cultures.

A possible career option is to do something involved in banking or investments - I certainly hope I will never have to wash another car again!

Example 2

"You go into the humanities to pursue your intellectual passion; and...you emerge as a desired commodity for industry." I interpret Damon Horowitz's statement as an indication that a History degree seamlessly fuses a subject I love with valuable future prospects; something I have always hoped for. I believe that study of the past is extremely relevant as it evokes greater understanding of where we are and where we will go in the future.

Studying 1920's America unearthed an enthusiasm for literature embedded in the period; particularly that of F. Scott Fitzgerald and I consequently found myself submerged in American culture and politics, just as Nick Carraway finds himself in 'The Great Gatsby'. Subsequently I continuously revisited different periods of America's history, becoming entwined in the 1940s and '50s and the works of James Ellroy and J.D. Salinger. The desire to read beyond my course enabled me to thoroughly enjoy studying this era, and an enduring interest in American affairs was sparked, something I hope to expand on. Further exposure to historiography through the works of E.H. Carr, Arthur Marwick and David Cannadine has widened my perception of historians, global history and matured my analytical and evaluative skills, an aspect I am keen to ameliorate in higher education.

My studies of the creation and expansion of Europe have shown me the romanticism rooted in History, whilst more complex issues like the Irish problem and the multiple German Reichs have granted me the opportunity to explore the role of politics in history in more depth. As a consequence my political interests have flourished, leading me to political science works including

Jason Ralph's, 'America's War on Terror,' 'Diplomacy,' by Henry Kissinger and in support of my Russian coursework, F. Von Hayek's 'The Road to Serfdom'. In unison with my course I am attending a trip to Auschwitz-Birkenau which though I know will challenge me greatly, will benefit my current and future studies.

Studying English has gone hand in hand with my historical pursuits; it has matured my essay writing skills and further extended my vocabulary allowing me to evaluate sources of a former period with ease. I implemented my love of History within my Design and Technology studies, manifesting my historical areas of interest such as global warfare and American politics in practical, independently researched assignments. My time management skills have been refined by Textiles, along with EPQ, providing essential practice that will only improve when at University.

During my time in Higher Education I strive to revisit my Spanish studies, I look forward to exploring the culturally rich Hispanic legacy embedded in History. As a Prefect I play an integral role in the school environment; I willingly take on duties such as fundraising and organizing extra-curricular events. Acting as contributing editor at both Wirral Girls and externally for Gold&Young has allowed me to develop and hone my own style of writing whilst engaging with and inspiring other contributors. I am a devoted performer specifically in singing and speaking; I have competed in Youth Speaks Rotary Club, and I enjoy travelling and fitness.

The aforementioned activities have taught me to be self-sufficient and confident whilst my part-time job has improved my communication and teamwork skills, providing me with insight into balancing studies alongside personal activities. On top of its leeway for personal interpretation and its resonance in society, I desire to study History as it is a field that has always provided me with challenge, making me crave new information.

I anticipate becoming an undergraduate and advancing from A-level limitations into new realms of History that I have not touched upon, such as East Asian affairs. A talk by Dr R. Hallett exploring the prospects of a history degree only further affirmed this for me, for he so rightly puts, 'history does not lead to one career, it leads to many'.