

PERSONAL STATEMENT SAMPLES

SAMPLE 1

My first biggest decision that set the path for my career was choosing Electrical Engineering as my field of study even though my parents were against it. Being the owner of a manufacturing company in the FMCG industry, I remember the day my father and I had an argument about what I should do with my life. While he wanted me to pursue Business Management, I always had a desire to know how things work, wanted to learn by experience & yearned to solve challenging problems. Ever since the day my father brought our first television set home, I have had a peculiar interest in knowing how one could fit an entire world into such a small box. A few other insanely inquisitive questions led me to choose to study Electrical Engineering, and I still believe that it is the smartest thing I have ever done.

A desire to extend my knowledge and an enthusiasm to solve the demanding problems faced by the industry today motivated me to pursue Master's in Electrical Engineering. I believe that my educational background has instilled in me the qualities required to meet the rigor of this demanding course, and subsequently, the profession. I bring along with me a strong grasp of fundamentals in Electronics, unique but relevant work experience, along with a desire to learn, a penchant for teamwork and leadership, and a zest for challenges.

In the near future, I see myself working in the Research & Development department of a reputed company where I would get an opportunity to solve some of the major challenges of the industry. I seriously consider pursuing a Doctoral Program (PhD) at a later stage, in order to further my knowledge of the industry. Towards this, I chose to pursue Master's in Computer Networks from the A.B.C College of Engineering and Computer Science - Department of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science, primarily because the school's strength lies in Networking and Cybersecurity, which closely commensurate my research interests and, hence would help me achieve my career goals.

I believe you should consider my application as this step is a major determinant of my success in life. My future is key to the survival of many other students who will use my story as a ladder to success.

SAMPLE 2

I am applying to Harvard's doctoral program in Economics to pursue a career in Academic Research. I Entered economics research because I enjoy modelling real-world situations with math. This interest was confirmed by my research work, which included projects on mortgages, optimal surveys, and consumer savings.

The experiences I have gained from the numerous research work I have been involved with further gave me the assurance that Research Economics is my field. Because of this, increasing my knowledge in this field has become apparent. This opportunity will enhance my knowledge base and make me eligible to solve the world problems that intrigue me.

One project I worked on for Professor John Jonson involved finding a formula that gave the best time to refinance mortgages. In this project, I enjoyed contemplating the various trade-offs between simplicity and richness that went into the model design. Should we model interest rates as mean reverting, or is a simple random walk approximate? Should we be precise and model mortgage amortization time, or should we avoid an extra state variable and instead just use a time-stationary hazard rate? These trade-offs were interesting to think about model building.

In doing this research work, I began to discover a new interest in economic theory, especially in theory work that is used by empirical economics. My revealed interest in economic theory led me towards theoretical fields with wide applications, fields like game theory and mechanism design where advances in theory increase the power and scope of all of economics.

For example, in game theory, sequential equilibrium in extensive form games allows richer dynamic models. In mechanism design, the revelation principle simplifies mechanism calculations. Implementation theory allows economists to design novel institutions to meet an objective that was previously untenable. The applicability of such theory work appeals greatly to me.

If this were an interview, it would have been very convenient for me to talk about all the fascinating projects I have worked on. Nevertheless, the exposure a doctoral degree will provide will enable my ambition to becoming a top economic researcher. The research institute I intend opening will be a resource centre for young economists.

Please consider my application.

SAMPLE 3

During the first year of my undergraduate degree, I took a small course entitled “Third World Development” taught by three rather radical and lively professors from Trinidad, Chile and Lebanon, respectively. This course, despite its passé title, existed to deconstruct our notions of ‘otherness’ by illustrating the deep connectedness of issues, people and nations. This theme of ‘connectedness’ is threaded through my research and work history under various labels and theories. My undergraduate research was dedicated to understanding the ways and means of political participation for women in remote places. I became curious about the role of women as informal politicians within their small collectives where survival literally hinges on connectivity. My time in observation of these women opened me to the idea that health and wellness can emerge from places faced serious food insecurity, poor shelter, corruption and long distances from the centre of national power. The extent to which women could draw upon their collective power and roles as givers of care in order to lobby local governments and participate legitimately in the polity was the very definition of their empowerment.

During my graduate work at the University, public health approaches to vulnerable populations were of particular interest to me. It became clear, during my field work with care providers for women who sell sex and do high risk drugs in downtown eastside, that vulnerable populations

around the world often have more in common with each other than with the ‘dominant’ or non-excluded populations. My research led to me questions about the role of social capital, defined in this case as a public good comprised of relationships and networks, in leading to better health outcomes amongst highly-marginalized urban women. The mechanisms through which both groups of women, in Northeast India and downtown Vancouver, became able to rely on or reject peers, givers of aid or care and the social and political systems in which they were enmeshed, are very similar. I have witnessed how health outcomes can be a partial function of connectedness for women on the periphery.

Public health has proven the best venue through which I can search for explicit, concrete evidence that individual and population welfare can be socially determined, by access to and power to make choices regarding housing, education, employment, income, political participation, nutrition and transportation. I see the centrality of connectedness, to institutions and peers, to the processes that enable an individual to access, choose and influence. My current work as a policy analyst with the Public Health Agency within the Strategic Initiatives and Innovations Directorate is focused largely on reducing health inequalities by mobilizing action on particular social determinants of health. While this work is important and generally on point, I suspect that the United States and Canada may benefit from exploring the micro-level ‘enablers’ of change with respect to the social determinants of health.

My proposed dissertation research would fall into the broader goals of studying the social mechanisms by which parental social connections affect the eating behaviour of their children as well as the way in which these mechanisms may vary across Montreal neighbourhoods. My particular interest is the potentially causal nexus between maternal social networks, neighbourhood environments, and the transmission of eating behaviours to children. In effect, my role would be to help operationalize maternal adversity and identify potential moderators on the effects of maternal adversity on obesity and eating behaviours of children.

I am drawn to School of Kinesiology and Health Studies specifically due to Dr. Spencer Moore’s background in medical anthropology and current work with social network analytic techniques. The application of network theory analytical techniques will be a new endeavour

for me, but I am attracted to the study of populations that are not necessarily bounded by their geography but by common circumstances, such as maternal adversity, and, potentially, common health effects related to obesity and food behaviours. I want to understand the links between the nature and degree of ties between the low-income women and how these ties affect norms related to obesity and food.

My prior individual research experiences were qualitative in nature, relying on grounded theory and warranted assertion analysis techniques common to sociological research. I have experience as a research assistant on a larger project studying large, linked quantitative databases of provincial health and corrections data in my home state. So, Social network analysis is a fascinating way of quantifying social capital and social networks and I am very enthusiastic about the opportunity to study these methods and methodologies under Dr. Moore."

SAMPLE 4

As an applicant to _____, I am one among many candidates who acknowledges the highly diverse and appealing culture of the campus. As an immigrant candidate, I am among those individuals who acknowledges their gratitude for a country that has enabled them to explore endless opportunities and to write this very statement. I have been given an opportunity, one which lets me offer a glimpse of my individuality, the story behind my journey, my capabilities and future possibilities for _____. In recognizing my ethnicity, my academic progression, continuous community involvement, work experiences, and strong regard for _____, I have been equipped with the passion, knowledge and determination to pursue _____.

My journey was challenging, but has characterized the woman I've become, and solidified the mark I want to leave in this world. In addressing my ethnicity as an Assyrian, I was born in Iraq. At the tender age of 4, my family and I fled to Turkey as refugees in hopes of safety, and were eventually granted acceptance to _____. My parents' relentless will to leave all they

had known to offer my siblings and I a safer environment, one which would enable us to flourish with opportunities, was inspiring and admirable. Assimilating into another culture was seemingly difficult. However, leaving Iraq was necessary to ensure I had a future, one that would allow me to learn, experience, and eventually become a_____.

“Why have you decided to pursue_____?” A question that seems direct however can be daunting to simplify in two pages. Coming from an oppressed war nation of extremists, justice is buried among the remnants of homes. My early exposure to a war-stricken environment led to a realization and eventually a passion; my relentless pursue for social justice. My culture has also enabled me to express patience and understanding to individuals of all backgrounds. Openness is the very ingredient, which echoes within _____and, is expected of _____students attending _____. I offer a distinct diversity in representing a small and underrepresented group of individuals; I speak Assyrian, an ancient language of Aramaic, spoken during the early times of Mesopotamia. With a passion for linguistics, I have also become advanced in speaking Arabic and French. Diversifying my communication is a trait I can bring forward to _____ as the backbone of the school thrives in multiculturalism and offers multiple global/international opportunities. Moving forward I want to continue utilizing my personal experience and platform to advocate for families displaced, as I strive to be at the forefront of international affairs.

My university career, employment and volunteer experiences have further fuelled my passion for _____. Additionally, they have enhanced my academic thought, cultural awareness and critical approach in _____. The education I gained at_____, with a major in Criminology and minor in Political Science provided me with an advanced knowledge of political relations. As a student, I gained the research skills to analyse individual behaviour and public policies. I analysed criminal patterns, from a theoretical and statistical standpoint. The analytical framework and organizational skills I gained are notable qualities that I can apply to my studies. During my entire university career, I remained employed and at times held two occupations. My internship at Border Services Agency strengthened my regard for national security, while sports taught me discipline, effective communication, and team collaboration.. Alternatively, my career experiences have tested my creativity in utilizing various resources to achieve my end goal. In the 3 years, I spent within recruitment/consulting industry, I gained a professional outlook, and got an insight into the competitive market. As a Scientific Recruiter, I worked alongside scientists/chemists and medical doctors, to ensure they found a suitable

opportunity. Through technical screenings, and developmental feedback, I was able to strategize and prepare the candidates for client interviews. As an Account Manager, I led the first Scientific Division for my company. I worked 60-hour weeks for two years to build a pipeline and plant the seeds for new business relationships. I learned to self-start, self-motivate, and lastly I learned that at times you will fail, but that does not mean you have failed. As an Academic Consultant at _____, I assist graduate students with their application and interview process to Medical and Dentistry School. We examine problematic scenarios, address pressing issues and explore multiple strategies. Evidently, I am apt to apply similar critical perspective to further my research by exploring multiple measures to gain a diversified analysis.

Upon my acceptance to _____ in the _____ program, I hope to advance my critical thought and awareness in international affairs and national security, through a calculated evaluation. With a variety of courses, such as _____, _____, and _____, I will adapt a dynamic perspective to direct my thesis. In addition, I hope to collaborate with _____ and _____, notable professors with substantive work regarding national security. With respect to campus involvement, I will see that my experiences will be utilized as I plan to join the _____, ensuring I will be at the forefront of political and social justice issues.