

COLLEGE PERSONAL STATEMENT: ENVIRONMENTAL GEOSCIENCE

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Personal Statement: Environmental Geoscience

Environmental geoscience is a discipline closely linked to the sustainable development of human society. It aids the exploration of resource sustainability and the monitoring of changes in the Earth's environment, serving as the scientific basis for the formulation of development strategies.

Environmental geoscience is driven by two central sources: scientific research and environmental concern across multiple disciplines, and the need for human survival and development. At this critical stage of the 21st century, Earth's environment faces major challenges at the hands of complex systems. I am eager to have the opportunity to be part of a team dedicated to the protection of the environment, and to use my knowledge of environmental geoscience to address global environmental challenges.

In high school, my studies in the natural sciences, principally in Mathematics and Physics, provided me with core academic theory but gave me a limited opportunity to apply this knowledge in practical terms. I now wish to take the next step and concentrate on the successful undergraduate study and application of Environmental Geoscience.

Many of my family are experts in the study of urban development, so I grew up immersed in environmental discussion. Raised in this environment, I gradually but inevitably developed my research interests. Initially I explored the field of environmental science, gravitating towards sustainable cities, which cannot be developed without the application of environmental geoscience. Reading 'Limits to Growth' by Dennis L. Meadows, I began to better understand the relationship between growth and the environment through the application of sustainable development pathways. However, I found that the conclusions in this book pessimistic. Meadows suggests that, due to food shortages and environmental damage, global growth will reach its limit sometime in the 21st century.

He goes on to theorise that the best way to avoid a world collapse as a result of exceeding Earth's resources is to reach a point of 'zero growth'. As research in environmental geoscience and sustainable development continues to advance, I believe we will balance human activity with natural ecology. I intend to be at the scientific forefront of ensuring that this is indeed the case, and see this degree course as the next step on that journey.

Working on a collaborative project on 'Ecological Risk and Management of Urbanisation', I found that cities, through the extraction and consumption of natural resources and the release of large amounts of pollutants into the surrounding environment, are altering the original structure and function of regional ecosystems. This creates serious ecological risks, and constrains the sustainable development of urban ecosystems. Examining the environmental risks faced in the process of urbanisation, the factors that contribute to ecological risks and the measures to regulate and manage them, I am aware that I need an increased understanding of methodologies in the sub-discipline of environmental science. In attempting to make a comprehensive dialectical assessment of responses to ecological risks, I have recognised the limitations of my current knowledge level, and have become more aware of my long-term academic goals.

In addition to my studies in the academic field, I actively broaden my cognitive boundaries through practice. During my participation in a summer camp focused on the topic of sustainable cities, my partners and I actively discussed issues of reducing pollution, saving resources and promoting social justice. I improved my time management and event organisation skills by participating in the Model United Nations and volunteering. This range of transferable skills gives me a strong foundation for my academic development.

With a strong passion for environmental geoscience, I believe I am the right applicant for this discipline and look forward to making a positive and lasting contribution to your learning community.

