POSTGRADUATE PERSONAL STATEMENT EXAMPLE

URBAN INFORMATICS

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Personal Statement Example: Urban Informatics

Not just a practical tool for mathematicians, statistics is an indispensable element within human society, as it illuminates the present and predicts the future. Each individual in every city in the world provides an endless stream of valuable data, and making full use of it can help us better organise our environments for the benefit of all. The overwhelming size and generating speed of real-world data has radically surpassed the computational power of the human brain, leading to the development of AI technology that helps us interpret the behavioural data our cities produce. I desire to better understand technology's potential to improve quality of life and to contribute to the burgeoning field of urban informatics that drives my application to this MSc course.

The focused curriculum of my bachelor's degree at Buckley University has established my academic literacy with canonical statistics theories and familiarised me with numerous programming methods. For instance, Bayesian statistics helped me gain a fuller perspective for dealing with dynamic real-world possibilities. Developing coding skills in R and Python has laid the groundwork for building neural network models. Both disciplines proved to be highly useful in my undergraduate studies and have prepared me well for this course and my subsequent career in data analysis.

Enthusiastic about urban data application, I undertook my first research project in 2021. The Key Technology of Strengthening the Ancient City Flood-Protection Wall project was based in Chimlow, a flood-afflicted area in Mansville. Coding a KNN algorithm and collecting over 5 GB of text data about the physical characteristics of walls directly contributed to the walls' data warehouse and stability evaluation system. The local government has adopted this system, reducing suffering from flood occurrences.

Inspired by the success of this project and keen to process larger volumes of cloud data in real-life urban operations, I developed a deeper understanding of smart city management during a recent internship. As an algorithm engineer at the Park Survey, Design and Research Institute, I worked on a video recognition model project for the detection of defects

in the drainage pipes of Dean city. Utilising my professional knowledge and skills, I managed a three-phase task. Firstly, I developed an innovative method for a Windows batch-processing programme which unified the names and types of more than 100,000 files. Secondly, I used label annotations to distinguish 11 defect types from 5,000 existing pictures of the city sewers. Lastly, I applied a Python clustering algorithm to extract key frames from hours of surveillance videos. This valuable opportunity to engage cloud computation and image data in a real industry context significantly economised manual workload and improved sewer maintenance efficiency. Perhaps more importantly, it confirmed my professional interest in this discipline, providing me with a sound foundation for courses such as Spatial Data Analysis and Data Mining.

The Urban Informatics MSc offered by Marshall is a critical next step in my goal to serve citizens in the public sector as a data analyst. The cutting-edge analysis-oriented faculty focus offers me the tools to get to the core of the study of urban informatics, whilst optional modules such as Tourism, Conservation and the Environment, which is of particular interest to me, provide an advantageous opportunity to study the challenges facing urban environments in greater depth. Furthermore, potential interaction with CUSP London will aid in fast-tracking my career. Finally, with a highly specialised degree and a detailed understanding of modules such as Introduction to Urban Analytics, I am confident that I will be able to contribute to the construction and management of smart cities, which are built on, run by and flourish as a result of the application and analysis of big data.