

# UNDERGRADUATE PERSONAL STATEMENT EXAMPLE

## ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

This is a real-life undergraduate personal statement example for **Economics and Finance**. You're welcome to use it to inspire your own content, but a reminder:

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### Personal Statement Example: Economics and Finance

A recent conference organised by my local Somali community centre highlighted the economic and financial issues faced by many African countries today. An advocate of independent learning, I was informed enough to proactively question the origins of these economic and financial dilemmas, and my participation enabled me to view the problems in Africa as multi-dimensional, arising from increased economic, financial, cultural and historical incompatibilities with an ever-globalising world. Appreciating the orthogonal nature of economic and financial issues enabled me to think beyond media representations of the 'Dark Continent'. Consequently, I have chosen to embark upon the interdisciplinary course Economics and Finance, as it is essential in helping me to grow, navigate and ultimately change the world around me.

Spending time working for NHS Test & Trace allowed me to witness first-hand the impact the pandemic had on working families; I spoke to people from a wide range of backgrounds, many of whom could not afford to stay at home and self-isolate even though they were a contact or a confirmed case. As a contact tracer, I had a bird's-eye view of the economic impact of the pandemic and am aware of its national and global reach. Seeing how nations of different economic standing dealt with the virus illustrated the variety of economic and financial factors that affect a country's sense of priority, capacity and willingness to respond. This experience served as a catalyst for my academic interest in economics and finance as I had a direct, almost ethnographical understanding of how government decisions can have lasting effects on economic agents at a micro and macro level.

My engineering studies necessitated different problem-tackling perspectives, and the qualities and skills required for success are highly transferable to the undergraduate requirements of Economics and Finance. Throughout my studies, I critically analysed problems by actively questioning underlying theoretical assumptions prior to investigating and formulating methods to solve them practically.

In *Access to HE: Engineering*, I developed my understanding of planning projects from the ground up and identifying the tools necessary to its fulfilment. For example, in the topic *Engineering Materials*, I was tasked with costing inputs and assessing outputs, ensuring the largest cost/benefit structure to aid efficiency. To facilitate this process, I was detail-oriented and measured all inputs into sophisticated formulae, developing my knowledge of CAD, calculus, spreadsheets and the fundamentals of programming. This monitoring of cost, revenue and product can easily be linked to principles in microeconomics, as engineers constantly battle with creating accurate economies of scale. I believe that my familiarity with the effective employment of mathematics and statistics, changing software and fluid analytical components has successfully prepared me for undergraduate study.

Last year I participated in 'The True Cost of the Clothes on Your Back' event, which outlined the exploitation of labour in developing nations. The event exposed the typical wages labourers in developing nations earn before the clothes are sold to developed nations at prices which are unsustainable for the global environment and the growing populations of working poor. To actively develop my understanding of some of the Marxist views represented at the event, I read the 'Communist Manifesto' and 'Techno Capitalist Feudalism'. This independent reading helped illuminate some of the ongoing employee-employer problems within capitalist models in a globalised arena.

My aims are to use the academic and personal experiences I will gain as a mature student to further my understanding of economic and financial thought, principles and ideas. Subsequently, I intend to employ this knowledge by working to help offset the many inequalities facing developing nations, in a bid to uplift the disenfranchised.

