

# UNDERGRADUATE PERSONAL STATEMENT EXAMPLE

## ECONOMICS

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### Undergraduate Personal Statement Example: Economics

The unprecedented pace and scope of global economic change shape our lives in unfamiliar and complex ways. The COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's war in Ukraine and the rising surge of authoritarian populism in Pakistan all challenge social and financial norms, leading to unpredictability in individual behaviour and international markets. Having experienced first-hand the vastly differing economies of the UK, Pakistan and Qatar, I have developed an interest in how economics affects education, employment and income. Comparing each country's response to the pandemic and observing the long-term impact of the decisions taken, I'm keen to learn which new ideas will replace the old paradigms, how inflation can be tamed without triggering a recession, and whether it is possible to grow global prosperity without exacerbating inequality at a national level.

I thrive on undertaking research into current financial issues and sharing my perspectives with the world. Following the IMF's reporting of US tariffs on Chinese imports, I analysed how economies rival one another as part of a wider war of geopolitical positioning. Additionally, I examined the US withdrawal from Afghanistan and its economic effects on neighbouring countries. My articles 'How the US-China Conflict Affects Asia' and 'The Economic Impact of the Afghan Crisis on Pakistan' were featured in Pakistan's New Reporter newspaper.

My relief work has exposed me to many societal disparities, fuelling my interest in economics and finance. I've witnessed first-hand the interplay between poverty and the economy and researched economic theories and their implications in real-world contexts to understand these real-life complexities. Deeply moved by the impact of the pandemic lockdowns on those reliant on a daily wage in underserved communities in Pakistan, I was inspired to set up a youth team for the food charity FoodShare and distribute warm meals through the uncertainty of constant lockdowns. This led me to research and discover theories such as Sens, which focused on income inequality and capability deprivation.

Initiating a drive to plant trees as a member of my college's Green Club, I realised that a financial incentive for growing trees, given directly to landowners in underserved urban and

rural communities, would contribute precisely to the economic stimulus they need. My findings were substantiated when I read Dambisa Moyo's 'Dead Aid'. I admire her views on development in low-income economies and her arguments for using trade as a growth and development strategy in Africa rather than relying on government-to-government aid. It is experiences like these which have convinced me to pursue this course of study.

My commitment to degree-level economics is reflected in my decision to study A-level Law during my gap year. This has developed my essay writing, analytical and critical thinking skills and taught me to apply logic and reasoning to reach decisions. Equally, attending the Young Leaders summer program at Buckley University last summer allowed me to develop my project management, team building and leadership skills whilst learning about sustainable development goals. I researched the pandemic in Canada and terrorism in Somalia and presented my ideas from an economic viewpoint, arguing how a country's stability is directly interlinked with its economic growth, affecting the sustainability of development goals. I valued the opportunity to represent my team and take the lead in public speaking and debating at the Oxford Union Chamber, and was proud to win the 'Best Debating Team' prize. I won first prize in the Marshall Young Mathematician competition whilst at college, allowing me to put my mathematical, logical reasoning, problem-solving and analytical skills into practice.

A diligent, dedicated and motivated student, I'm confident that my personal qualities, practical experience and academic interests will fully support my commitment to reading for an economics degree.

