

# POSTGRADUATE PERSONAL STATEMENT EXAMPLE

## APPLIED ENGLISH

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### Postgraduate Personal Statement Example: Applied English

I became particularly interested in pursuing higher education during my high school years. It was during this time that I discovered a love of academia and the opportunities for self-development and transformation that learning offers. However, my interest in Norse literature and the Viking age has continued to develop since I studied World History in 8th grade. The depth and impact of this era of history piqued my interest, lighting a fire that would lead me to consume every piece of information on the subject possible, starting with The Saga of Erik the Red.

Gaining a place in the MA in Applied English Programme (online) at Slater University will allow me to engage in detailed research and reading, focus on Norse and Viking Studies and add to my already significant knowledge of this fascinating era. My interest in this specialisation can be further evidenced through the considerable emphasis on Medieval Europe throughout my transcript and my further reading of materials such as the Eddas, many of the Sagas, and publications such as "The Viking World," edited by Stefan Brink and Neil Price.

My suitability for a place in this course is further underlined by my experience researching the medieval period and studying Viking mythology during my undergraduate study at the University of Buckley. In particular, classes such as Medieval European Civilization 450-1350 (led by Dr Laura Devonish) and Viking Mythology (led by Dr April Knight) have given me a sound theoretical and historical understanding of this field and prepared me thoroughly for the demands of postgraduate study. In addition to the depth of specialist knowledge I developed during my degree, I have improved my ability to achieve high levels of advanced project planning, research, implementation and writing up through dedicated independent study.

I am confident that this programme will provide me with the advanced tools necessary to become an increasingly accomplished and respected scholar capable of comprehensive research and original, informed conclusions. Carefully examining many of the university's

critical and ground-breaking publications, such as “Berserker: A Re-examination of the Phenomenon in Literature and Life” by Jim Crawford, has deepened my ambition and inspired me to work with and learn from Dr Mary Marshall, who supervised this work. This course also offers me the opportunity to produce a research paper in either phase two or three. My current research focus is on the rapid Christianisation of the Vikings and how it affected interactions with the English and French during the period. It is likely that this interest will form the foundations of my postgraduate research proposal.

Studying within your renowned English department will also allow me to achieve my goal of reading for a PhD and contributing to publications that shed new light on Anglo-Scandinavian culture and mythology in the Viking Age. It is my goal to regularly contribute meaningful research to scholarly journals such as the Scandinavian Journal of History, the Scandia Journal of Medieval Norse Studies, and the Viking Society for Northern Research. Consequently, I anticipate that participating in this postgraduate programme will furnish me with the tools and skills required to engage successfully in the publishing process.

The online delivery of this MA degree will allow me to continue to work as a high school history teacher throughout my period of study. This is a role which I consider a calling as well as a passion, and it is a career I have aspired to since my high school days, when I connected with some of the kindest and most inspiring teachers and role models I've had the pleasure to meet. I am confident that I will be able to successfully balance my professional responsibilities with the demands of this master's course and subsequently achieve the challenging goals I have set for myself.

It is clear to me that Slater's Applied English programme is an ideal fit for my personal and professional ambitions and offers me a valuable opportunity to deepen my knowledge of a subject to which I am already committed. It will allow me to follow my firmly held and deep-rooted passion for Norse and Viking Studies and aid me in my ambition to become an active scholar in the historical community. This course is the next step in my journey towards my professorship and my goal of combining my passion for teaching and Norse and Viking studies in the higher education sector. I look forward to studying with and learning from a range of inspirational faculty staff and sharing my skills, knowledge and experiences with like-minded peers through online workshops and discussions. I find it difficult, to the point of impossibility, to think of a programme that I would rather work towards my masters in. I look forward to moving into the next step of the application process and embarking on my first class in September.

