

POSTGRADUATE PERSONAL STATEMENT EXAMPLE

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

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Postgraduate Personal Statement Example: Environmental Policy

My commitment to environmental safeguarding was inspired by my high school research into the Tibetan Plateau, which introduced me to the vicious cycle of soil degradation and global warming caused by overgrazing. Consequently, I consider it my duty to combine scientific knowledge and analytical thinking to design, implement and evaluate environmental policies that relieve the pressure of climate change and promote long-term sustainable development. The insights I have gained through academic progress, research and practice have provided me with a sound theoretical and practical foundation for study, and I am certain that reading for this MPhil in Environmental Policy will allow me to develop the skills, knowledge and networks necessary to achieve my goals.

Achieving an exceptional academic performance as an Economics undergraduate, I ranked in the top 1% out of 372 students. Having achieved a sound understanding of the rationale behind natural resource allocation and the mindset essential for complex decision-making, my undergraduate experience has prepared me comprehensively for graduate study. My "Climate Vulnerability and Fertility Rate: A Cross-Country Analysis" research paper examined the negative impact of climate change and emphasised the importance of progressive, forward-looking climate change policies. I collected panel data from 106 countries over 25 years and used Stata to build a fixed effect model, revealing that countries more vulnerable to climate change exhibited lower fertility rates. My research highlighted how climate change impinges economic growth by reducing fertility rates, compelling me to identify policies that can mitigate the negative impact of environmental vulnerabilities and help sustain local economies. This experience motivates my interest in the Energy and Climate Change module, which will provide me with a better understanding of climate change mitigation and adaptation from both energy and technology perspectives.

Examining the negative impact of climate change on sustainable development, I investigated the extent to which key players were taking effective action to combat the crisis. For example, I contributed to an investment plan for a new energy vehicle company at the Slater International Capital Corporation. Although the company had made progress towards

employing cleaner production methods, investors primarily focused on potential revenue growth and neglected the broader societal benefits of energy efficiency and environmental protection. The consequence of this reckless exploitation of resources, often referred to as the “tragedy of the commons”, can result in environmental deterioration and impact long-term profitability. Indeed, Professor Laura Mulgrave’s recent work on clean energy technologies also emphasises that green industries must consider the entire global value chain in relation to long-term sustainable development.

Despite the profile of climate issues, countries often focus on GDP growth and national interest, limiting the consideration of their environmental responsibilities. With the adverse impact of climate change increasingly apparent, how can policymakers inspire collective and positive changes to global sustainable behaviour? In my undergraduate dissertation, I will aim to answer this question by conducting a preliminary evaluation of regional carbon market regulation through a cost-benefit analysis. This type of assessment is crucial in convincing policymakers that regulatory benefits can outweigh the costs and that bolder steps can be taken towards sustainable progress. As a postgraduate student, I intend to complement my evaluation with the legal knowledge required to implement policy, and studying the International Environmental Law module in this MPhil course will deepen my understanding of the tools needed to enforce the regulations necessary to reduce global carbon emissions.

I also intend to strengthen my analytical and applied skills in environmental problem identification and policy evaluation and design on this course. The freedom and flexibility that Marshall offers to explore complex concepts, collaborate with exceptional peers and develop new ways of thinking is inspiring, and I look forward to joining the Centre for Environment, Energy and Natural Resource Governance, studying cutting-edge topics and gaining insights from top-tier scholars. The recent work of Dr Joanna Dondono, which examines how co-beneficial initiatives overcome stagnation in the negotiation and implementation of climate action, fascinates me.

As someone who embraces challenge, I am confident that the depth of my academic potential and professional ambition will allow me to thrive on this postgraduate course. Continuing my academic journey at Marshall will empower me to apply an innovative level of expertise to forming environmental policy and, ultimately, make a valuable contribution to global sustainable development in the face of a growing climate crisis.

