

Personal Statement: Finance

Finance fascinates me as no other field does. High finance and the markets have stimulated me intellectually for some years now, and I am eager to learn more about this world: to understand how the decisions made by finance and banking professionals impact the decisions made by economists, and how this shapes the future of society.

I am naturally good with numbers and complex mathematical equations. I enjoy the intellectual challenge of calculations and the mental dexterity that they demand. I am very driven and consider myself self-disciplined and self-motivated, which should explain why I have always been content to attend to my studies voluntarily without being ordered or coerced to do so. These should be personal and academic traits that will be helpful for me in my finance studies at university.

My A-level subjects have given me a firm foundation for studying finance. Maths has improved my logic and helped keep my numerical skills sharp; economics has improved my understanding of the world from a fiscal perspective; and geography has provided me with the ability to better understand important issues on a global scale. History, which I took to AS-level, also helped me to learn how to communicate ideas more clearly and confidently, both in speech and in writing.

My love of all things to do with finance and numbers has morphed into my hobbies too. I have a trading account that allows me to make investments based on my research, and I am currently 24% up in the first six months, which has been quite eye-opening! I relish the thrill and learning that this online market gaming provides me. I think it's been helped by the fact that I regularly read *Bloomberg*, learning about the markets, doing trends analysis, and scrutinising what the financial pundits have to say or advise.

I take pleasure in playing golf and squash, as well as football. Individual sports have given me a more competitive and self-reliant spirit, whilst team sports have shown me how to work cohesively with others. I find the competitive aspect of sport very appealing, whilst also having fun and keeping fit doing them.

I have spent my summer working as a receptionist temp, being sent to different companies to fill in positions as and when required. These positions included working in a bank and a law firm, experiences that have helped me better understand the professional environment. I found that I quickly adapted to the workplace and the various tasks that were expected of me. I relished the sense of responsibility, as well as the versatility of the different positions I was given.

University will be an exciting and important experience for me. It will be my first time away from home, and I plan to make the very most of it, grabbing all opportunities offered. I have always aspired to higher education as I have a positive and committed attitude to learning, and I know that my enthusiasm for education, and my passion in particular for finance, will make me a valuable member of your department.

Ideally, I would like to work for a bank when I graduate – possibly an investment bank – given my aforementioned love of high finance and the markets. Attending university will help to develop the personal characteristics and skills demanded by such a competitive career, as well as broadening my understanding and helping me learn to apply the knowledge I gain within a real-world setting.

My overriding ambition for university is that I excel to the best of my ability, and that I grow in every way possible. I am keen to learn new things and am excited to move forward with my life. I look forward to the challenges and experiences that lie ahead: scholastic, personal, professional, and social.