

Personal Statement: Geography

This planet is such a beguiling and beautiful sight to behold. With its complex diversity of terrain and landscapes, it is an ever-changing field of study that I am simply captivated by. The different cultures, the social and economic factors, and the study of the environment and all its inhabitants are things that draw me to study geography. I am excited and eager to further my fascination with the study of this broad landscape and all it encompasses.

At school, I enjoyed pursuing all subjects, but I had the most success and interest in geography, biology, art, and maths. In my geography studies, I appreciated the all-encompassing aspect of the subject matter. I especially enjoyed the concept of how human geography and physical geography intersect and interact in order to create a finely balanced ecosystem.

My interest in biology not only has intrinsic connections to the nature of geography, but also it has had a vital impact on my research and analytical abilities, and I have spent hours conducting fieldwork – an essential skill for a geographer. Maths has similarly provided me with the skills necessary to interpret and understand the numbers and statistics encountered in my geography studies, such as migrant flow statistics and population demographics.

Art is a subject that I keenly relate to geography in that I enjoy spending time sketching and photographing the amazing landscapes that grace this planet. One of my most esteemed academic accomplishments was a combination of drawing and photography in a portfolio titled “Portrait of a Planet.” This work included a variety of images I created that tell the story of a beautiful world tainted by famine, war, and disease.

My personal interests include extensive travelling, and experiencing the causes and effects of the areas and regions that I have studied. I was fascinated to spend time in Cuba and experience first-hand what life under a socialist system entails. I have also visited Tanzania where I had the privilege of volunteering my time in an orphanage for two weeks. That experience itself was life changing and made me realise how fortunate some cultures are in comparison to others. Upon graduation from university, I hope to pursue a career with a charity that aids developing communities. I have a passion for assisting and supporting those who are less fortunate than myself.

Last year, I was part of a World Challenge expedition in which my group and I trekked the Inca Trail in Peru. It was an amazing experience to walk the same steps as those who came centuries before me. I kept a sketchbook as a travel diary of my experiences, which is one of my most prized possessions.

In addition to my travels, I am an accomplished musician. I played the violin in my school's orchestra and recently achieved distinction in my grade seven exam. I also spent time as an Explorer Scout from the ages of 14 to 16, and I plan to become a Young Leader with the organisation. Both pursuits have taught me the importance of being self-disciplined but team-oriented; after all, no man is an island and we're stronger as a collective.

For the last six months, I have worked as a lifeguard at my local leisure centre. I enjoy being in an environment that is centred around people, and have developed a great sense of responsibility and leadership, as well as honing my communication and teamwork skills.

I am a hardworking and driven individual, and am adventurous to a fault. My love of travel, my longing to help those around the world who are in need of additional support, and my intellectual and social skills should all stand me in good stead to successfully pursue a degree in geography.