

Personal Statement

2014, Geography, St. Catherine's College

I started to collect minerals when I was four and wrote amateur 'books' on them. Later I realised that Geography was the subject I had always desired to learn as it links social and natural science. As my horizon broadened, my interest in social geography, particularly in political geography grew.

I have taken part in several field trips both in Hungary and abroad where I inspected the regional geography of the visited areas with the scientists of the University of Szeged and it reinforced my devotion to Geography. Moreover, I am interested in speleology, therefore I studied several caves. I participated in two training camps at the University of Pecs to prepare for international competitions. I gained insight to lecturers' research there which made me realise my sensitivity to scientific problems and want to become a research geographer.

I currently attend Radnoti Miklos Grammar School which is one of the most renowned secondary schools in Hungary. My geography teacher encouraged me to participate in the national competition for young geographers. Although it was my first geography competition, I came first in 2011 and repeated this victory in 2012. I also qualified to represent Hungary in the National Geographic World Championship in 2011 where our team came 11th. In 2013 I came second in the Hungarian National Competition, won a national geography competition organised by the University of Szeged and the National Geography Olympiad in English. I also qualified in the International Geography Olympiad organised by IGU where I was awarded silver medal in the individual contest since I came 27th out of 126 participants. Additionally, the contestants of the same country competed as teams by preparing scientific posters on traditional and modern projections about the future of the Earth. The Hungarian poster came second out of 32. These competitions made me aware of international standards and the importance of both team and individual work, moreover, highly improved my English and science skills. I also prepared essays, for instance about the consequences of natural disasters. Peter Haggett's *Geography: A Modern Synthesis*, which I read while I was preparing for the International Geography Olympiad, impressed me by its modern concept. Especially the chapters on urbanisation, cultural diversities and population dynamics enchanted me and influenced my way of thinking.

Besides being committed to Geography, I learn History at advanced level, because I regard both subjects enthralling and interlinked to each other. Due to my hard-working and competitive nature, I have successfully competed in several History, Hungarian literature and spelling competitions. In my free time I read classical and scientific literature, including the *Review of the Hungarian Geographic Society* and *National Geographic Magazine*. As a folk-dancer, I have performed in several European countries in the past ten years. I really enjoyed these tours as I had the chance to familiarise with the customs of numerous nations. While staying at foreign families, I managed to adapt to other cultures which also broadened my geographical horizon. I used to be a student council representative as I feel responsible for the community I am the member of.

As I consider myself creative and susceptible to modern perceptions, I intend to acquire the Anglo-Saxon approach to Geography. I am applying to the universities in the United Kingdom, because they are famous for their high quality education and world-leading research. Having competed in English and attending a class specialised in it, I will not have problems with communication. Due to its versatility, Geography is the subject I aim at dealing with in my life. Moreover, I always feel like learning it no matter how exhausted I am. I am committed to solving global problems and studying Geography in the United Kingdom would help me make a better world and reach my goal to become a research geographer.