

Personal Statement

2014, Natural Sciences (Physics), Trinity College

As a child, I remember how much I wanted to be a tram driver. I cannot describe that curiosity I had to find out which button has what role in operating that vehicle. Later on, this interest in how nature works remained so my parents bought me several encyclopaedias about the world written for children.

Time passed by, but one thing is the same as it was in my childhood: I am really impressed by how perfectly nature does its work. Starting from the tram driver, I wanted to become an astronaut, a scientist and now: a physicist.

I attend Piarist Grammar School, which is an all-boy, Roman Catholic school located in Budapest and which is considered one of the best schools in Hungary. Teachers inspired me not to focus my interests solely on Physics but on other fields like Mathematics and Chemistry which I also take advanced level courses in.

The field I like the most in science is Physics. The simplicity of the method of describing nature impresses me to a great extent – it is amazing that scientists can give working models using Mathematics as a key tool to predict our observances. I pursue this interest of mine not only by attending lessons but also by going to extra-curricular activities, e.g. the preparation class for the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO). These lessons proved to be useful: year by year, I nearly always ranked in the first 3 in national competitions. For example, from 2010 to 2012 I won the Károly Ireneusz National Physics Competition in each year and in 2011, I won the Mikola Sándor National Physics Competition, which is the most notable competition for 9th and 10th graders. In 2013 I was the 3rd in the Eötvös Competition, which is the most important competition for all secondary school students in Hungary. In international terms, I won silver medals in the 43rd and 44th IPhO.

I deal with Physics and other sciences not only by going to competitions. I like working with younger students, so I am also organizing an extra-curricular lesson for them in my school. Besides solving problems I regularly publish some of those in the Hungarian Mathematics and Physics Journal for Secondary Schools and in the Ortway Competition for university students.

I like working on problems which need interdisciplinary skills. For example, I designed a car with a team of students for an Audi-organised competition which was awarded the Most Innovative Vehicle prize. Furthermore, I published a Hungarian-English glossary of the basic terminology of Mathematics and Physics with another student.

Besides sciences, I am interested in Philosophy, so I attended the International Philosophy Olympiad in 2013. I like studying concepts of epistemology and aesthetics. I am also involved in informatics – in fact, I was the school system administrator with my teacher so I have knowledge of administration and programming.

The other essential value I was taught in school is team spirit. It is good to be a part of the community and to take part in organising its life. I am a member of the student government where I am responsible for science-related events and for handling the official documents and policies of the school. This year I started organising a series of lectures called Ego Sum. In this series, the most renowned people in Hungary from the President of the Hungarian Academy of Arts and Sciences through an Olympic Champion to the President of Hungary talk about their lives to the

students in the school. On the top of that, I had the chance of consulting with the Prime Minister of Hungary on questions related to education.

Diversity is what describes me the best. Apart from science I do a variety of things in my free time. As for sports, I do ballroom dancing and swimming at a high level and go horse-riding at weekends. I am convinced that this active way of relaxing really helps me a lot. On the other hand, I also take part in poem reciting and grammar competitions and I like reading very much. I regularly go to exhibitions as well.

Supplementary Additional Questionnaire

As a hard-working and open-minded student, Cambridge is the right place for me to study. It is broadly considered one of the best universities in the world with outstanding achievements and facilities, especially in sciences. I also believe that the supervision system of the university is one of its greatest strengths and it could help me to bring the best out of myself as I consider sharing ideas with other students extremely stimulating. I also find it really useful that the course I intend to take is Natural Sciences and not just, say, Physics, as I have interests in many fields I could combine this way.

The main reason I chose Trinity College is because a number of people in the forefront of their fields are associated with the College which cannot be by chance. Additionally, heritage is a great value to have and the high rate of international students would help me broaden the horizons of my mind. Finally, current students at Trinity told me that there are a lot of ways to pursue my interests beyond Physics and other sciences, which I also find very imposing.

That is why I think Cambridge and Trinity College would be the ideal place for my university studies.