

Personal Statement

2008, Natural Sciences, Trinity College

I can still remember my first Chemistry lesson at the age of 12, when my teacher showed us methods on the basis of which scientists could work; it had such a strong influence on me that from this point on I became more and more interested in chemistry and generally, in sciences. He realized my attitude to his subject and so encouraged me to take part in a competition. I immediately felt like learning and knowing as much as possible. As a result of months of thorough preparation, I finally achieved an unexpected result: the third place of the most prestigious academic competition for my age group. Apart from rising to the academic challenge I found the atmosphere so motivating that I decided to continue my chemistry related studies. Since then I took part in three chemistry competitions, the most prestigious ones in the country. I achieved excellent results in all of them, I was always one of the best 10 students. I am especially proud of my 7th place in 2007, where the majority of the competitors were one or two year older.

Due to my results I was selected to take part in a two week preparatory course for the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) both in 2007 and in 2008. On this course I learnt about topics which are not included in secondary school syllabus, I used a wide range of laboratory techniques such as spectrophotometry. This gave me an insight into all main disciplines of chemistry. I really enjoyed learning more about how reactions proceed; from chemical kinetics about their rate, and from organic chemistry about their mechanisms. I almost became the member of the Hungarian Team, I hope this year I will succeed in qualifying myself to the IChO. My success gave me motivation, and while taking extra lessons I regularly give presentations with one of the students from my school to interested and younger pupils, which makes me think over the material again and again as it is a really important point in giving logically constructed lectures to them. During the preparation for competitions and the IChO, I obtained relatively deep comprehension of chemistry and high level problem solving skills.

While learning chemistry, I realized that it was essential to study Physics and Mathematics more in depth as well. I had taken part in extra calculus lessons for two years, had learnt the basics of higher mathematics, which turned out to be very useful when solving either chemistry or physics problems. The ability to use calculus brought physics nearer to me, therefore I started to take it more seriously. I achieved 12th place in a prestigious mailing competition. Solving tough problems month by month improved my knowledge rapidly.

As my school provides a lot of opportunities in different subjects and in other cultural programmes, I took part in a team competition called "Citizen in a European Democracy", where we were the 2nd best team in the country. Furthermore, I am a member of an English drama group, we make up relatively short plays each year and present them on special occasions. Apart from these activities, I have been playing badminton for 11 years. It is a sport that really helped me develop my ability to concentrate, which proved to be a great advantage in school related commitments. I am a two times Hungarian champion and I was a member of the U17 European Team Championship in 2005. I like music, I played the piano for nine years.

In my opinion studying in the UK, would be a golden opportunity for me as I want to continue my studies at a world-class university, where I can learn about the latest developments of science and the usage of modern laboratory techniques. Also, living in a foreign country would be beneficial for my English. I suppose that I could benefit from the education provided by universities, and with my enthusiasm and diligence I could work in the field of science in the future.