

# Personal Statement

## 2008, Chemical Engineering, King's College

Turning soon 18, just finishing my secondary education, I am often asked what I would like to do with my life. The honest answer is that I want to have both an interesting and a useful life, to have an impact and to create or even invent something that can contribute to overcome the challenges humanity is facing. I believe that by studying chemical engineering I shall be able to satisfy not only my curiosity for science but also my ambition to eventually „add” something to the world.

From all I have learnt about the developments of science and society in the past, it seems clear to me that the central and most crucial problem of our time is the question of sustainability. Engineers and researchers should try and find new methods and new technologies to maintain the standards of living that have been reached in certain parts of the world and to make them accessible for every human being in the future. During a school project my team and I have worked together with the Salvation Army. Working with them has helped me to look at things from a different perspective than only my own, to make me see how terrible illnesses, hunger, poverty, pollution, the lack of resources can be; it also made me understand that charity only brings temporary solutions. In the last couple of years I took active part in the school project called Model European Parliament, at both national and international levels. While I thoroughly enjoyed this and could very much identify with the idea of trying to improve our world by addressing, discussing and offering possible solutions for world issues, the most important lesson I learnt was that unless you have sufficient, real in-depth knowledge on a subject, all you say remains empty speech only.

I certainly do not want to be a person of empty speech. I have always enjoyed learning, learning anything actually. In the last two years I have had four classes of biology and physics at school and still have two classes of chemistry each week. Investing extra time into these favourite subjects of mine made me become even fonder of them. My recent chance to participate at „Researchers' Night” in Budapest confirmed to me that biology, chemistry and physics get only more and more interesting as one learns more about them.

Chemical engineering, the way I see it, is a profession with useful and practical knowledge. This is exactly why it would fit with my character: my mind is very logical and rational - however sometimes too logical, as my mother teases me. I am open minded and ready for new challenges, I am eager to learn whatever effort it takes. I can cooperate well with others and according to the feedback of others I am good at teamwork.

Why would I like to go to university and why to Cambridge? Because I would like to know more than I do know now, want to focus on those areas that interest me the most, and because I hope to be surrounded by people who have similar interests, motivations and goals in life like me. From what I read and heard, at your university the perfect background for studying exists, the cultures of traditions and excellence mix, students have access to unparalleled education and to a vivid student life. Having grown up in an international environment, and being a bilingual German-Hungarian speaker, with some knowledge of French as well, it is also my ambition to spend my university years in a tolerant, value driven, multicultural environment. I trust my knowledge of English will allow for this as I have passed my IELTS exams in March 2007 with an overall score of 8.5. „Do good things and do them well” said a famous Hungarian poet. I strongly believe that science, especially life sciences, if applied well, will become an increasingly important tool of doing good things and I would like to be able to use this tool well. This is why from October 2009 on I would like to be a student at Cambridge University.