

How is human capital nurtured and how does it contribute to sustainable growth in national economies? This, along with similar questions was formed in my mind while participating in a research project and getting first-hand experience on the current migration crisis. I became fascinated by how fast a human resource can be turned into human capital, so that integration will be beneficial for both host countries and migrants in the long run. The project showed me beyond doubt how vital international cooperation and the proper management and allocation of economic resources are, confirming my intent to study the subject on academic level.

As an active member of a talent programme, I had the chance to get acquainted with various academic disciplines. Through modules in Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and Innovation Economics I learned about the equilibrium curve, the elasticity of goods, examined different monetary and fiscal policies, Okun's Law and the Phillip's Curve. Courses in IR and Historiography helped me contextualize these theories in space and time and made me eager to find out what factors determine the wealth of certain regions. In the 18th century, as Adam Smith held in his magnum opus, it was believed that growth can be achieved by heavily investing capital into technology and labour force. It was striking to see how different the contemporary perception is while reading 'The Triumph of the City' by Edward Glaeser, who argues for different priorities. He claims that sustainable economic growth can be achieved by environmentally conscious urban planning and by fostering human capital, which will attract investments into cities, transforming them into thriving centres of innovation. This opened my eyes to the interdependent and symbiotic nature of cities and businesses and made me eager to find out more about the role of corporations in an economic context.

Interning at a luxury coffee brand over the summer I got an insight into the marketing, operations and supply chain management of a global firm. The most fascinating part was to observe the company's impact on natural, financial and human capital markets. The experience sparked my interest in FDI, fair trade, corporate responsibility and aid. After thorough research I wrote an essay for a course, titled 'Foreign Aid to Africa Does More Harm than Good', in which I argued for the exploitation of African countries through the seemingly selfless aid donations, using texts by Dambisa Moyo, Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson and analysing 'Honest Accounts?' by Sharples et al. While volunteering for Habitat for Humanity I could personally experience that involving skilled human capital and precise urban planning can be more worthwhile than sending aid to LDCs with poor institutional networks.

I am fortunate to attend an English-speaking high school, where my essay writing and presentation skills in the language have greatly improved. Studying mathematics and history at higher level and my keen interest in geography kept me engaged in diverse subject areas. In all grades my GPA remained in the top 10% of the class and last year I was awarded a full tuition scholarship, given to only one student each year. Concerning extracurricular activities, playing the piano for 6 years has increased my appreciation for performing arts. Also, sport has always played an important role in my life, for I started Irish dancing at age 6. Learning to perform under pressure and balance my trainings with my academic commitments paid off, as I came first in several international competitions.

Pursuing my studies in the UK would equip me with strong knowledge, and a prestigious diploma from a world-class university would open up international career prospects in the future. In light of my academic and personal abilities I am looking forward to becoming a valuable member of your university.