

A walk from the Hungarian city of Pecs' interior, reverses expectations about the relationship between the city centre and the periphery. The first 500 meters exhibit unfinished construction sites and empty new buildings with signs marking contributions made by Brussels. The second 500 leads to the Zsolnay district where the regeneration of the derelict porcelain factory created sustainable jobs for locals, by nourishing the existing consumer demand, through the construction of a university residence. The contrast shows the difference between what top-down funding achieves without policy that considers bottom-up incentives. This exemplifies why interdisciplinary study of space and economic behaviour is essential to solving the challenges of the 21st century.

As a sophomore student I received a merit-based scholarship from Milestone Institute's talent programme, where I immersed myself in economics, geography and law over the past three years. During the first trimester, I took classes in Microeconomics I dealt with decision making of individuals and firms within the borders of a single market using Varian's "Intermediate Microeconomics" as a starting point. In Mathematics for Economics we covered basic calculus, accounting the GDP and basic statistics as well as calculating interest rates. The following trimester I took Development Studies, where I came to be influenced by Ha-Joon Chang's ideas on capitalism, I concluded in my final essay that aid can be a solution for Sub-Saharan Africa's problems only if it is not conditional upon entering free trade zones, which jeopardize the infant industries of these countries. Exploring a different slant to the topic of 'aid', I researched the socio-economic reasons behind the decline of Hungarian football. I determined that the main cause is to be found in the transition of ownership to groups - for instance politicians, who were circumventing the traditional rules of competition described by Adam Smith in "The Wealth of Nations." Due to large state budgets and investment in infrastructure that are allocated regardless of merit, Hungarian football remains provincial due to the lack of performance-based incentives.

Measuring the effect of global events on a local scale, for my Human Geography and Geopolitics module, I wrote an essay analysing the extent to which the Wilsonian idealism manifested in the border making principles of the Paris Peace Conference. I contrasted the Treaty of Versailles with Wilson's Fourteen Points, and found that they correlate only to a low extent. The main difference was while Wilson aimed to create nation states, the Allies only used this principle for ensuring their supremacy over the defeated Central Powers by creating buffer-states.

One of the most memorable moments of the last year was when I was awarded a silver medal at the International Geography Science Olympiad. The qualifiers consisted of three rounds of tests, presentations, and a complex urban renewal project while at the Olympiad I had to deal with issues ranging from local tourism to environmental security. At the ELTECON National Economics Competition, I received third place. In the final round I gave an impromptu presentation about the effects of making seatbelts compulsory. I argued that it can even have negative effects on road security, as providing an unreal feeling of safety for drivers. This summer I worked for three months as an intern for UniCredit Bank, participating in research about how the bank should attract young workers. During my free time I am an enthusiastic sportsman: I attend regular football trainings and compete in the regional league. The student centred educational system and interdisciplinary focus offered in the United Kingdom, played a major role in my decision to study at a UK university.