

In my favourite book, Isaac Asimov's *Second Foundation*, there is an organisation, whose axiom is that although individuals are unpredictable, by combining mathematics with humanities, the behaviour of a group can be predicted, and used for the good of the society. This idea really appealed to me as a kid, and in short it still is what economics means to me: the combination of mathematics and humanities in the ambitious and challenging attempt to crack the code of how society works and to give us a better tool for decision making.

I came to economics by the way of maths and geography. Mathematics has always been my favourite subject in school, not only because I enjoyed thinking on puzzling mathematical problems, but also because I found it essential to describe the world. At my secondary school, which is considered to be the best in Hungary in the subject, I studied mathematics at an advanced level and attended extracurricular classes for talented students. I especially enjoyed using mathematics in applied situations such as in physics and in 2015 I won 16th place at the National Physics Olympiad for my age group. The modelling nature and the challenging task of understanding complex social situations, and their underlying reasons fascinated me in human geography from 7th grade. After becoming familiar with economics I realised, that the topics and methodology liked in human geography were much more defining in economics. Since then I have used this subject as tool to foster my interest and use my knowledge in economics, as economics is not offered at Hungarian public schools. I reached the national top-15 four times in five years at the National Geography Olympiads for my age group. In the latest one I earned 12th place out of 537 competitors with a 40-page research comparing the labour market of two neighbouring Hungarian counties, and discussing the effects of bordering a significantly more developed country on a county's labour supply and hence wages. In addition, in 2016 I came 5th, and in 2017 2nd at the Hungarian selection competition for the International Olympiad. In 2017 I won a silver medal in the International Geography Olympiad coming 11th in the Written Response Test.

Samuelson's and Nordhaus's *Economics* was given to me by my father in an attempt to challenge my career choice, but this book ended up laying down my foundations in economics, and fortifying my decision to become an economist. *The Worldly Philosophers* by Robert Heilbroner gave me a better understanding of how historical experiences have shaped economic theories. For example general gluts were thought to be impossible by most classical economists as they contradicted Say's law, while historical evidence of the credit bubbles -has proved their existence. After reading Ha-Joon Chang's *Economics: The User's Guide*, the concept of market failures and the free rider problem grabbed my interest. This introduced me to new analytical tools, which I made use while debating over topics such as noise pollution or transboundary river rights at the Milestone Debating Society. Milestone Institute is an advanced studies program for gifted students, where I was admitted with a UniCredit scholarship. Here I had the opportunity to attend seminars on the use of Mathematics in Economics, and on Microeconomics, where we covered chapters from Hal Varian's *Intermediate Microeconomics*. I am currently attending a course in -Macroeconomics structured around Mankiw's Macroeconomics textbook. I am also interning at UniCredit where I participate in a research project, surveying and interviewing students and employees about the bank sector. Based on our findings we are constructing an action plan, which we will present before the Management Board.

During my university years I am looking forward to study from the forefront people of economics in a challenging, international, diverse community. Thus I believe a top university in the UK would be the best place for me.