

# Personal Statement

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## Biomedical Science Personal Statement

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The human body is one of the most amazing things in the world. We have so many cells that are designed to carry out their jobs perfectly. Laboratory work has always been very interesting for me, as it allows you to delve deeper into finding out how and why things work in the way they do. Exploring deeper into what the body can do is something I would love to build a career on, and it is for this reason I have chosen to study Biomedical Science at degree level.

Although I have only recently started studying again, I already feel that I have learnt a lot of new information, and I am enjoying it immensely. I feel the course material sets a great foundation to lead onto a Biomedical Science degree. The English, Maths and IT modules of the course also help to develop skills that would benefit me greatly while studying at university, such as how to research effectively, how to present reports and structure essays.

I studied Biology at A Level, and feel as though I am re-learning a lot of fascinating information at college on my current course. As a mature student, I am glad I have the opportunity to study Biomedical Science at this point in my life, as I am a much more mature and rounded individual than I was when I was eighteen. I know more about myself, and am much more confident. I enjoy feeling challenged, and believe I have the right personality to be a hard-working university student.

Science, and more specifically Biology has always been my favourite subject while growing up. I am extremely passionate about immunology, which I would be keen to study after completing my Biomedical Science undergraduate degree. I had a cornea transplant to treat keratoconus just before I turned nineteen. Unfortunately, the transplant rejected twice. Although this was a frightening experience for me, I could not help but be amazed about how my body was reacting to the new cornea. My passion for immunology is reflected in my plans to pursue an independent research project into allergies for my current course. I have found researching into different theories, such as the hygiene hypothesis incredibly interesting.

I have attempted to secure work experience in the pathology laboratories at X Hospital through GSTS. I was invited along to an open day, which I will be attending in December. Currently, I work part time at my local Waitrose as a Checkout Supervising Assistant. This has helped me build up a lot of life skills, such as customer service, team work, confidence and leadership. The time I have spent at work after finishing Sixth Form has enabled me to build up a greater appreciation of what is important to me in life and given me time to realise that further education is what I really want.

During my spare time, I enjoy playing bass guitar. I think learning any instrument requires a lot of commitment and determination. I like to show the same approach to my studies. I also like to read fiction, watch films and meet new people.

The prospect of studying at university greatly excites me. I am very much looking forward to broadening my knowledge and I believe I would be a credit to any university that chooses to let me study with them.

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As human beings we rely on intelligence and limitless curiosity to sustain our existence in such a complex society. Yet this existence is fragile, threatened by disease and the ticking time bomb of age, amongst other things, and yet seemingly held together by the principles and applications of biomedical science. The ability to apply laboratory based science with a medical grounding to the public healthcare setting and the ever-changing, versatile nature of the profession is what enriches my ambition most. Science is a delicate balance between what we know and what we have yet to discover and, being born in an age when technological advancement has flourished, I believe that there is no better time to exploit my passion for biology.

My A level studies confirmed my desire to study biomedical science and gave me the opportunity to develop new interests within the field. Chemistry and biology not only provided the foundation for further scientific study, but also a challenge to delve deeper into many topics that have captivated and intrigued me. One topic which was of particular interest to me was genetics and DNA-based technologies. The sheer fact that this single molecule contains the billions of intricacies essential to life pushed me to research it further; in particular, looking at how the shortening of telomeres play a major role in ageing and how the development of telomerase-based drugs could be an exciting new step towards treating cancer.

Organising several months of work experience and voluntary work over the past two years has provided me with a solid understanding of medical research and its application within healthcare in my local community. Shadowing a GP regularly allowed me to observe the front line of the NHS - the vital service they provide but also many examples of over-reliance on and abuse of the primary care system. At \*\*\*\*\* Hospital, I spent time within medical laboratories in the pathology, nuclear diagnostics and pharmacy departments which gave me a fascinating insight into the multi-disciplinary system which modern healthcare is so dependent upon and which ensures the highest possible standard of patient care. Shadowing a number of consultants within nephrology, urology, oncology and palliative care has recently led me to take part in the exciting MedTech innovation fellow programme at the Anglia Ruskin Medical Institute by invitation of Prof \*\*\*\*\*, looking at developing pioneering medical equipment with government funding. I have also come to appreciate the less glamorous side of healthcare, spending a year as a voluntary assistant at a residential care home. Here, I built strong relationships with elderly dementia sufferers and became a prominent member of staff, whilst learning to preserve the health and dignity of residents through various medical and practical procedures.

Assisting charitable causes is a passion of mine and raising £700 for Leukaemia Research by means of a self-organised half marathon was a particular highlight. Helping to prepare several productions and charity events at school has earned me a number of commendations and given me the opportunity to strengthen my teamwork and communication skills, essential for any profession with a biomedical basis. As a grade 6 pianist, a prominent member of a performing arts academy and a keen badminton player at club level, I enjoy enriching many aspects of life outside of academic study. I believe I have the necessary skills and qualities for a fruitful life at university. A degree is for me, the perfect opportunity to cultivate my natural i

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The idea of being able to improve the lives of others is simply captivating to me. My mother enjoys telling the story of when I was in pre-school and found a dead bird on the street and decided to take it home, believing that I could nurse it back to health.

It was when I received my first anatomy encyclopedia at age 11 did my passion for biology fully ignite. In High school, I discovered my keen interest in disease related topics, medical discoveries and advancements.

Through my Extended Essay, I was able to further explore my interest in depth on the influences of DNA on certain mental illnesses such as bipolar disorder which, along with inclusion of mathematics, improved my ability to analyse statistics and process large amounts of data. This investigation also gave me insight into how vast the world of science really is.

Being able to discuss with my stepmother the various cases she faced as a paramedic showed me the importance of having a holistic approach in the medical field. I constantly find myself riveted by her deep understanding in the complexities of human anatomy, leading me to endless questions that motivate me to investigate deeper, as I am aware I still have much to learn. This led me to creating my own medical blog in which I explore different case studies of diseases and recent scientific progresses.

The first aid trainings I undertook at the Berlin Red Cross association allowed me to learn the value of practical medical skills. This was further highlighted to me during my flight last year, when I was able to assist an epileptic mother into the recovery position during her seizure.

During my visit at the "Glasernes laboratory" in Berlin, the opportunity to participate in a few biomolecular experiments such as identifying the drift velocity of insulin through gel electrophoresis alongside biochemists was educational, allowing me to familiarise myself with sophisticated equipments and concepts crucial in the laboratory.

While focusing on pharmacology in my current course module is inspiring, I find my passion for other aspects of medical science unexplored. This gave me the determination to pursue a different course that will allow me to delve into my interests completely.

However, the knowledge acquired through this course was substantial. Not only was I able to improve my laboratory skills, the emphasis on good laboratory practice (GLP) further trained my sense of accountability. I was also able to use this year to acknowledge and improve on some of the flaws in the foundation of my knowledge.

Leading me to further undertake Biology and Chemistry A level exams alongside my university science courses. This gave me the chance to not only build my confidence in the core aspects of both courses, but also in the newly acquired knowledge provided to me in university.

Belonging to a highly mobile and culturally diverse family trained my ability to be independent and adaptive to new surroundings, allowing me to become fluent in Chinese, English, Taiwanese and German. I moved to Berlin on my own at the age of 16 in order to join a state school. Living and relying completely on myself was tough at first, but made me develop a strong sense of responsibility. Working part time also allowed me to learn the value of being self sustainable.

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Raising funds for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation was motivated by my desire to do something to counter a disease that has affected my family personally. Being part of the school orchestra and triathlon club for 4 years showed me the importance of cooperation and communication.

I also received a certificate of achievement for climbing the Xueshan mountain in Taiwan. Participating in the University MuayThai club allowed me to balance an active lifestyle with my school and university studies.

My determination to pursue a medical career and help others has only strengthened with time. I look forward to the knowledge and challenges awaiting me in this path.

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## Biochemistry Personal Statement

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For the longest time I have been deeply interested in the mechanics of all things. Even when I was younger, I would often take apart my toys in an attempt to understand their inner workings, before attempting to put them back together. When I entered high school however, my interests became more specifically biologically based.

My main interests are how the body works in both healthy & diseased states and how we have evolved from primitive mammals to the dominant species of the planet.

I feel that my school experiences and work placements have enabled me to make a much clearer decision about the course I wish to study. I had for example, both 'hands-on' and observational experience over a seven month voluntary placement in an NHS Pathology department in disciplines including Bacteriology, Haematology, Histopathology and Biochemistry.

Thanks to my links with the Haematology department I was able to obtain first-hand experience on the blood transfusion ward. This allowed me to gain an insight into the inner workings of the department, and the importance of cross organization collaboration.

Also, as a result of my links in Histopathology I have been able to observe various biomedical scientists as well as shadowing some of the consultant Histopathologist where I got to observe the "cut ups" and listen to their observations.

I feel that these experiences have allowed me to further my understanding of the differences between normal and abnormal cellular activity and have confirmed my desire to work in this field.

I enjoy Histopathology as I am an organized and analytical person and cells appeal to that side of me. As well as this, I have had experience as a Medical Laboratory Assistant in Haematology and Biochemistry laboratories for four months, where I managed to get a deeper understanding into the intricacies of vital fluids.

I have also had further practical experience in Biological Anthropology due to a placement at one of my local universities. I have a passion for Osteology. I find the fact that we can tell so much about a person and their life from their bones fascinating.

As part of an individual project I chose to restore and catalogue two female skeletons, I feel that this was an invaluable experience as it allowed me to personally study the intricacies of the human musculoskeletal system and I found I had particular interest in osteogenesis.

I feel that these experiences helped to confirmed my decision to study the human organism and all its complexities.

There are many other things that I do outside of the world of academia. I enjoy playing the piano, the cornet and singing. I have sung at The Savoy Hotel London with my youth choir. I also enjoy outdoor sporting activities such as rock climbing, mountain and gorge walking, kayaking and canoeing and skiing.

I feel that in doing these activities I have been able to improve my endurance and stamina, they have allowed me to work as both a member and leader of teams; I believe that the Duke of Edinburgh award has further strengthened this.

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As well as sporting activities I enjoy volunteering. I have helped to teach sports and support in classes at a local school for children with physical & mental disabilities and I also volunteer at a local Residential Home helping elderly people with their gardens. I am a fluent welsh and Italian speaker and am currently learning British Sign Language.

I am also the Class Representative at my college Student Parliament where I help to promote the Learner Voice to the Strategic Management Team. joining my college debating Society has helped me to develop my ability to think logically and concisely as well as improving my public speaking skills and confidence.

If I were accepted to study my chosen course, it would allow me to pursue my ambitions of a career in Biomedical Science, with the possibility of postgraduate study in Medicine leading to a career in Histopathology, Endocrinology, Paediatrics or possibly Academic Medicine.