

## 1) Law

### Why do you want to study this course or subject?

My reasons for studying law are clear, and are rooted in direct experience. As a teenager living in Bangladesh, I gradually became aware that the law applied to some and not others. While I wasn't yet experienced enough to reflect or rationalize this awareness, it came sharply into focus at 13, when Ali, our local newspaper vendor was hit and killed by a drunken driver. His family were left destitute and while everyone was aware that a high ranking diplomat had killed Ali, no punishment was ever metered out to the driver. Gradually, I began to notice other seemingly small injustices which were never addressed - children and women being beaten, corrupt environmental practices, and bribes given in return for favours. At 15, my focus shifted and I knew that if I was to continue living in my beloved Dhaka, I had to help change it. My inspiration for this is Bangladeshi lawyer Khan Khalid Adnan, who gained his LLB from the UK and has since been working tirelessly on a pro-bono basis on the development of the laws of road traffic accidents, environmental crime, and clinical negligence cases. I see him as a star lawyer and my mentor who is inspiring me and others like me, in my aim to work for his legal firm. If I am to work to change the injustice of my country, having the knowledge to apply the law fairly, honestly and without prejudice, was the only way I could do this. Additionally, the breadth, resources and internationalism I knew I wanted, could only be found on UK university law modules.

## How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

I have ensured that I moved my focus of study towards the subjects at high school which would serve me on a law degree. For example, in the final 2 years of study, I selected courses in political history, technical writing, and Economics. In addition, I took online courses run by the FutureLearn group, including 'Introduction to Law' from Glasgow University, and 'The social and political development of the UK' from Leeds University. My coursework project was investigating some of the legal cases brought against President Trump and this has helped my research skills. Through this project, I have learned to discriminate between real viable academic research, and highly opinionated commentary from unreliable sources. I am hoping this skill will help when I come to look at real cases, argument, and counter argument. In addition, technical writing is incredibly useful in learning to express precision, a vital skill when writing law reports.

## What else have you done to help you prepare, and why are these experiences useful?

As a member of my school's volunteering group, I have learned the value of empathy through work with the homeless and dispossessed of Dhaka. It is so important for anyone in the legal profession to have empathy, and this is something I learned as a teenager witnessing injustice at home. I have also been able to step away from my academic work through my love of basketball and I find this clears my mind and keeps me fit – essential as a reset for the next phase of study. One of the opportunities I am most excited about in joining a UK university, is



meeting other law students through the many clubs and societies. I'm eager to compare our legal systems, learn from others, and make lasting and lifelong international connections to be a better student and a great lawyer.

## 2) Mathematics

### Why do you want to study this course or subject?

I always see really beautiful mathematical patterns in my everyday life and this has happened since I was a child. The patterns I see are everywhere, in dates, buildings, nature, sports, and numbers, I also see them in everyday processes. Maths affects all aspects of life and applications in day to day activities, and when I entered high school, it was this realisation that the whole world runs on a foundation of maths, that made me realise I really wanted to study this subject. With this idea in my mind, one of the prime reasons I want to study maths at a UK university is the different modules on offer at undergraduate level to elevate my interest and knowledge in the subject. For example, learning more about algebra, geometry and algorithms to name but a few. I am excited to learn how maths can be applied to the real world and how that connects to my own ideas of how maths works to add order and understanding to everyday things. When I get to university, I am looking forward to learning about applying rigorous proof to all aspects of maths, as well as some of the gaps I feel that were not included in my high school maths, such as commonly used notations for mathematical functions. When I leave university, my goal is to have a career where I can use my mathematical skills for a career in actuarial science. I am particularly interested in the relationship between actuarial science and the science of climate change. I want to learn about the increasing risks to land, people, and property using mathematical modelling techniques and statistical concepts I learned as an undergraduate. This is really important because in my country, Bangladesh, climate change is going

to be a big issue in the future and we need to know how to make predictions on insurance costs using mathematical modelling.

## How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

I was very lucky to have an inspiring maths teacher at high school who was important in my academic success. He helped me to understand the importance of working hard on solutions and problems, and never giving up. He showed me that there was always a solution, even if it was hidden. With his encouragement, I achieved top marks in Maths, Further Maths, and Applied Maths, for every year of my high school, and I went on to take part in the 2023 Asian Maths Olympiad, representing my region. In addition, to help me prepare to become an undergraduate, I have taken a number of online short courses including, 'Understanding the Weather' (University of Reading & The Royal Meteorological Society), as preparation for my career in actuarial science focussing on climate change. I have also completed an 8 week further online course through the University of Padova on Calculus, because I feel that my high school Calculus course was quite basic. This course helped me look deeper into calculus concepts such as limits, derivatives and integrals. I really enjoyed studying asymptotic analysis, because I feel that this will help me to understand and evaluate algorithm efficiency in preparation for becoming an actuary who specialises in the uncertainties of an evolving and destructive climate.

## What else have you done to help you prepare, and why are these experiences helpful?

Having spent a year in the UK, studying maths on the Warwick International foundation programme, I feel that I am well prepared to live alone in a new country. During my time here, I have lived on my own, opened a bank account, set up a mobile phone contract, washed, cleaned and shopped for myself, visited a number of UK towns and cities, and met a big group of other international students. I have also joined the Warwick Maths Society where I have met students already studying on undergraduate Maths programmes. This has been really useful in helping me to understand what is ahead of me as an undergraduate. I have been able to ask members of the group lots of questions to help me prepare for studying maths as an undergraduate at a British University. It has also given me a number of contacts who I can call on if I need support with my academic work throughout the year. In my spare time, I enjoy playing football as this also helps me make friends both from the UK and abroad. It also helps to keep my mind and body fit and playing football helps me relax when I am studying for exams. I believe my experiences and achievements given in this personal statement will help me to be a well prepared student and I am really excited about starting my course and learning so many new things.

## 3) Business Management

### Why do you want to study this course or subject?

The reason I want to study Business Management is because it is a natural step in formalising my instinctive but unruly business acumen. My entrepreneurial journey began unexpectedly at the age of ten when I fell ill and, out of curiosity, mixed glue with detergent to create what would later become widely known as slime. What started as a simple experiment soon evolved into a hobby and eventually a small business. As the business grew, I collaborated with a group of young entrepreneurs to organise the first-ever slime event in my city in 2019. The response was overwhelming - I sold out in under 50 minutes, earning approximately \$450 - a significant milestone for me at the time. This experience gave me my first taste of running a business, from dealing with customers to managing supplies and working with partners. Consolidating my experience through a degree at a UK university will give me an international outlook, and since business is a global function, the contacts I make will be invaluable. I will have the opportunity to attend lectures and seminars given by some of the world's best business minds in the truly international environment of a UK university.

### How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

I feel well prepared for studying Business thanks to my online and in person studies. In 2021, I applied for a 9-month entrepreneurship course with an American online school, Ed-options, to deepen my understanding of business management. The course provided me with a

great insight into the roles of an entrepreneur, the selling process, customer management, and marketing strategies. Furthermore, I learnt about the fundamentals of business law and explored production and operations management. Each topic revealed new opportunities to create value and be innovative, which made me even more excited to pursue a career in entrepreneurship. I found the modules in this course extremely useful for my understanding of the Business Management on the Foundation Programme at Warwick, where I am currently enrolled. The Essential Maths module, which I found particularly engaging, is helping me build the skills needed to manage the financial operations of a business through statistical methodologies and mathematical models. Meanwhile, the Global Economy module is providing me with a broader perspective on the factors that influence business operations. Building on my previous high school research projects, one on mental health challenges among teenagers and another on videography, I am now exploring a new topic in the Inquiry and Research Skills module. I am analysing the impact of international sanctions on food sector businesses and shifting consumer preferences through primary and secondary research tools, perfecting my skills in referencing, paraphrasing, selecting and synthesising relevant sources.

I am honoured to have been recognised as a winner in multiple prestigious English language competitions held by top Russian universities, such as the Higher School of Economics and Moscow State Linguistic University.



## What else have you done to help you prepare, and why are these experiences helpful?

Earlier this year, I volunteered at an international rowing event, which helped me gain invaluable managerial experience. I assisted the head cashier in the box office and worked with some of the country's leading event managers to coordinate packed lunch deliveries to all the volunteers working at the venue, improving my communication and problem-solving skills. This also helped me gain a better understanding of the logistics involved in event management. Additionally, during this year's summer break, I decided to explore the industry that I aim to specialise in - hospitality. I secured a position as a waiter at a local restaurant, where I worked for approximately one month. I enhanced my understanding of the hospitality industry by seeing how it operates from the inside. Every day, I engaged with dozens of customers and worked closely with the kitchen staff, which boosted my communication and teamwork skills. Although this was a difficult and time-consuming experience for me, it deepened my understanding of the industry and reinforced my interest in pursuing a career in hospitality.

In addition to my academic achievements, I am a ballroom dancer of ten years, competing at regional and national level tournaments. Although I have now switched styles, I find that dancing, alongside meditation and therapy sessions, helps me relax and approach my studies with renewed energy.

## 4) Engineering

### Why do you want to study the subject?

My family originate from a remote area of Kenya, and I was delighted to have been selected for the Ashinaga scholarship to study engineering in the UK. I see this as confirmation of my drive to help my community through learning about how improved infrastructure can improve lives. My drive and motivation to study engineering comes from the stories my grandmother told about the extreme hardship they suffered during periods of drought, when the expertise to bring water from areas of flood to drought-ridden areas didn't exist. While the cattle belonging to my mother's family in the north were dying of thirst, those in the south belonging to my father, were suffering from flooded grasslands. By learning about the latest innovations in infrastructure engineering from a British university, I hope to take my expertise back to my country to help to continue the drive to modernise the country.

### How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

My high school was very supportive of STEM subjects and the teaching placed an emphasis on project based learning. In my last year at high school I achieved top marks in physics, maths, further maths and computer aided design. These academic subjects were strongly supported by practical options such as learning the Solidworks system to support my CAD interests. For example in my penultimate year of high school, we were given a CAD project to create a smart irrigation system for local vegetable farmers. Using an Arduino board, moisture sensors,

and a water pump, my group built and automated irrigation system for a small vegetable patch of approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an acre. Using the sensor enabled us to monitor the soil's moisture content and set watering levels accordingly. For the project, I learned to use Arduino, and undertook basic coding skills (C/C++). Additionally In order to engage with the schools ongoing support for rural communities, we also undertook a final examination project to make a solar phone charger. For this I constructed a small solar panel from recycled components which I used with a diode and charging circuit. The most valuable, simple, and surprising skill I learned was soldering components together effectively. I believe these important practical skills along with my academic success will make me an excellent student.

## What else have you done to help you prepare, and why are these experiences helpful?

I am an avid hockey player, and play for both my school, and town team. Aside from keeping me fit and active, I enjoy the teamwork and camaraderie that is involved in the game. I believe that playing hockey is a great way to make friends and become involved in communities. When I move to the UK I will ensure that I join the university team to make friends with people from across the world. Hockey keeps my mind and body fit and helps me to gain full attendance on my courses which is crucial for success. In addition, this year, I completed my gold Duke of Edinburgh award with the final expedition taking place in the Masai Mara. I had to have a great deal of resilience and courage to complete this as there were certain challenges such as carrying a heavy load across terrain with the threat of wildlife and heatstroke. As part of the award, I contributed to the creation of a children's playground in my city,

and my school group used our practical skills to construct the equipment. The Duke of Edinburgh has taught me many soft skills including resilience, empathy and teamwork. I hope that these skills will help me when I move away from my family and friends for my exciting new life in the UK.

## 5) Social Sciences

### Why do you want to study the subject?

Signing up for an anthropology and sociology course, a little known or loved option at my high school, ignited my interest in an area that changed the course of my life. The set text, “Small Places, Large Issues”, was one of the first texts we were introduced to. In class, I was captivated by Eriksen’s discussion of religion and the cultivation of the ‘social person’, which made me question how behaviours and world-views are passed across generations. The consideration of the formation and impact of cultural knowledge systems on people inspired me so much that I knew I had to start thinking about where and how I could delve deeper into these fascinating theories. The natural choice of course, was studying Social Sciences at a UK university where decades of research and funding has produced some of the most prestigious and enlightened teachers in the world.

### How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

The IB diploma content has been very stimulating. The term started with an analysis of “The Great Gatsby” in my English Literature class. This encouraged me to think about how emblems of status and conspicuous consumption shape social relationships, and how this relates to real world social relationships. It was these interdisciplinary connections and their links to sociology which I found most fascinating in my pursuit of knowledge about social sciences. Following on from this, my anthropology and sociology course has provided an excellent foundation

for an undergraduate course. Texts such as 'The Portable Jung' and 'Man's Search For Meaning' made a huge impact on how I now see the world. The harrowing nature of 'Man's Search For Meaning' was a text I'll never forget and it left me with more questions than answers. After reading the 'Mismeasure of Man' as a set text in our second term, our teacher gave us a task tracking our responses to how we rank others based on their alleged genetic limitations and gifts. This was hugely revealing and rewarding for me and I turned our group's findings into a summary which was then featured in the following year's syllabus. In other areas, my interests and abilities are shown through high marks in exams in diverse subjects such as geography, maths, and computer science, all of which I believe will go towards a supportive undergraduate student profile.

## What else have you done to help you prepare, and why are these experiences helpful?

The link between an interest in social studies and the development of empathy is clear, and I understood this as soon as I had decided to study the subject. In my hometown, I am active in two charities – the first is to mentor girls from underprivileged backgrounds. Many of them have not had positive messages about education from the older adults around them so I have had great success building relationships with these girls and encouraging them to continue their studies beyond primary school, often against family resistance. The second charity is to help rescue, spay, neuter and treat stray cats in my city, a charity founded by my mother. From this, I have learned that all living beings benefit from love and care, regardless of species. Finally, I am an active member of the school football team which I initially set up. In my



country, it is very unusual for girls to take part in any type of sport so I felt proud when we were finally allowed to use the boy's football field and equipment at my school. Something which we petitioned for over a number of years. I come to the UK with excitement, trepidation, eagerness but above all an openness to everything a top UK university has to offer a burgeoning sociologist from overseas.