

Personal statement

I find the complexity and synchronicity of biodiversity fascinating and aspire to pursue a career in environmental protection; working to create effective policies for large organisations such as the United Nations Environmental Programme or the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. I see this degree course not only as an opportunity to enrich my subject knowledge but also as a step towards my ambition to complete a Masters degree and develop a career within the field of global environmental protection and wildlife conservation.

My interest in biological diversity has grown from a curiosity with the natural world that I have had since I was young. My grandfather was a nature cameraman and produced many documentaries on the wonders of the natural world and he fostered the development of my interest in discovering and understanding environments and ecosystems. Nature conservation is essential and I have pursued my interest in this through my studies, employment, hobbies and voluntary work to date. My studies outside of Biology complement my degree choice; for example, Biodiversity under Threat (Geography) and Statistics (Mathematics) which have strengthened my analytical skills and accuracy.

In my spare time, I have also developed skills that will assist me in my academic and professional career. For example, work experience at Woburn Safari Park which combined practical experience in the field with subject talks such as Breeding Programmes and the Role of Zoos in Conservation. This developed my understanding about international breeding programmes and implementation of environmental policies and gave me a valuable and enjoyable opportunity to undertake fieldwork. Recently I have been undertaking voluntary work for Rural Care, a charity based on a local sustainable farm. This opportunity has helped me understand the challenges of balancing public access to wildlife with animal welfare and environmental and commercial sustainability.

Alongside my A Level studies, I have researched 'To what extent should wildlife conservation policies be written according to a local approach as opposed to a global approach?' for an Extended Project Qualification. This has strengthened my ability to independently design a project, undertake and critically analyse research, and extend my report writing skills, all whilst gaining deeper understanding of my topic of interest.

I have developed a strong regard for domestic and international conservation issues and developments, and appreciate opportunities to challenge my views and broaden my awareness of current events and scientific understanding. My reading of journals such as RATEL, membership of the Cambridge University Zoological Society and Royal Geographical Society, and support for charities such as WWF help me to achieve this.

My current role of Head Environmental Prefect at my school has enabled me to bring together my interests and knowledge. This has further boosted my skills by challenging me to develop my confidence in order to inspire other students to engage in activities I have organised such as events to promote Earth Day and Recycling Week.

Outside of my studies I work as an Assistant Manager in a local cafe that promotes environmental sustainability, and have held this role for over a year. This has strengthened my team work and leadership skills as it has required me to be organised, supportive and work as part of a team in a pressured environment. This will help my transition to university as it has helped me to mature and work under pressure both independently and as part of a team. To broaden my horizons outside of my A-levels I have been learning Italian for over a year. This requires organisation and dedication to make myself practise regularly without support from school to encourage me, and has required a large amount of independent learning. I very much hope that you will consider me a suitable student for your degree course.