

From May 2016 to present, part-time

T.J Morris

Address: Garden Square Shopping Centre, Letchworth

Nature of work: Sales Assistant

From July 2015 to May 2016, part-time

Personal statement

"I work here all week to pay for my son's school fees" are the words spoken by Anh Chiem, a Vietnamese beach saleswoman who learned English by speaking to tourists. In my travels to other countries such as Sri Lanka and Ukraine, I have gained a greater perspective on the economic inequality which exists in the world today. This is what laid the foundations of my interest in economics, as I want to understand the reasons for varying degrees of wealth throughout the world. Ultimately, my interest ignited once I opened an account with Plus500 and began trading currencies using virtual funds. Not only has this allowed me to gain a valuable understanding of financial markets but has also been a catalyst in my interest in exchange rates. Additionally, I have improved my knowledge of economics by reading introductory books and have recently begun reading the more challenging "Principles of Economics" by Gregory Mankiw. Although I have not finished this book I have learnt about unemployment and income inequality. The relevant and logical nature of economics is what has drawn me to the field as well as my desire to find the answers to society's big questions, such as the impact of minimum wages on workers and businesses.

The logical thinking needed for Mathematics, the analytical skills needed for History and the investigative mind-set needed for Business all complement each other well to form the base of an economics degree. These subjects have enabled me to see both the benefits and drawbacks of an argument, which I believe is a key skill for an economist. An undergraduate economics course is of great interest to me due to the inclusion of macroeconomics as this is linked to exchange rates. This will undoubtedly be beneficial towards my trading. A degree in this field will boost my career prospects considerably, as I want to work in the financial sector.

Additionally, attending "The Young Investment Banker" programme at UCL in July this year was immensely helpful in developing skills such as networking, teamwork, and public speaking.

Alongside my studies, I have taken part in a variety of extra-curricular projects. One of these is Young Enterprise, where I gained first-hand experience of how a business operates. As the sales director, I was heavily involved in discovering the target audience and assessing the market to see whether our product (Ukrainian chocolates) had sufficient demand. This was a steep learning curve and I discovered that market size was the limiting factor in our success.

The UK's recent decision to exit the EU has compelled me to write my EPQ on the effect of "Brexit" on the UK's economy. This project has required me to independently research and present my findings. From this project, I have learnt how to reference sources and compile a convincing argument. Furthermore, completing the Duke of Edinburgh expedition instilled resilience skills, as I had to keep on walking despite the terrible weather.

Despite being dedicated to my studies, I have been able to maintain an active social and work life. Working as a sales assistant at Morrisons has required me to interact directly with customers and tend to their needs, which has boosted my communication skills. Beekeeping is my main hobby sparked by my grandad and I currently own three hives. To ensure the bees' survival I must make weekly maintenance visits and protect the bees against parasites such as Varroa. I am also an avid golfer and I represent the team at my local club. During the summer holidays, I took part in National Citizens Service where I raised money for Herts Young Homeless by sleeping outside for a night, I believe my leadership skills have improved significantly as I was put in charge of finding suitable material for everyone to sleep on.

Taking this into account, I believe I have the necessary skills developed through my A-level studies and experiences beyond the classroom to succeed in an Economics degree course.