

St Ninian's High School

UCAS

UCAS Application Guide 2018-19



Name & Class.....

Pastoral Teacher.....

Parental Signature & Date.....

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INTRODUCTION

We have an extensive and on going programme to support all applicants in processing their application. This includes advice on course choice, personal statements and guidance on how to complete the electronic application. We will also prepare a school reference.

We are most grateful to parents in ensuring personal statements are accurate and of a high standard, all personal information (including S4/5 SQA examination qualifications) is accurate, course choices are appropriate and realistic and all final stage deadlines are met timeously. We ask that parents sign and return the personal statement when satisfied, before the deadline for completion.

We will hold a UCAS information evening in the school forum at **7pm on Tuesday 5 September 2017**. On this evening we will look at the application process with a special emphasis on personal statements and how parents / carers can work with the Pastoral Teacher to improve these.

The UCAS application is online. Please ensure that applicants adhere to the following timeline:

Friday 26 October 2018	All applicants should have registered online
Friday 2 November 2018	All personal details, including exam results entered
Friday 9 November 2018	First draft of applicants personal statement submitted to Pastoral teacher, with parental signature
Friday 16 November 2018	All choices for university courses entered
Friday 7 December 2018	Final draft of applicants personal statement submitted to Pastoral teacher with parental signature and entered online on the electronic application

Applications will be checked, processed and sent to UCAS by Friday 14 December 2018.

Please note that these are **final stage deadlines**. Individual applications will be checked and sent upon completion.

Dates Unavailable for Interview

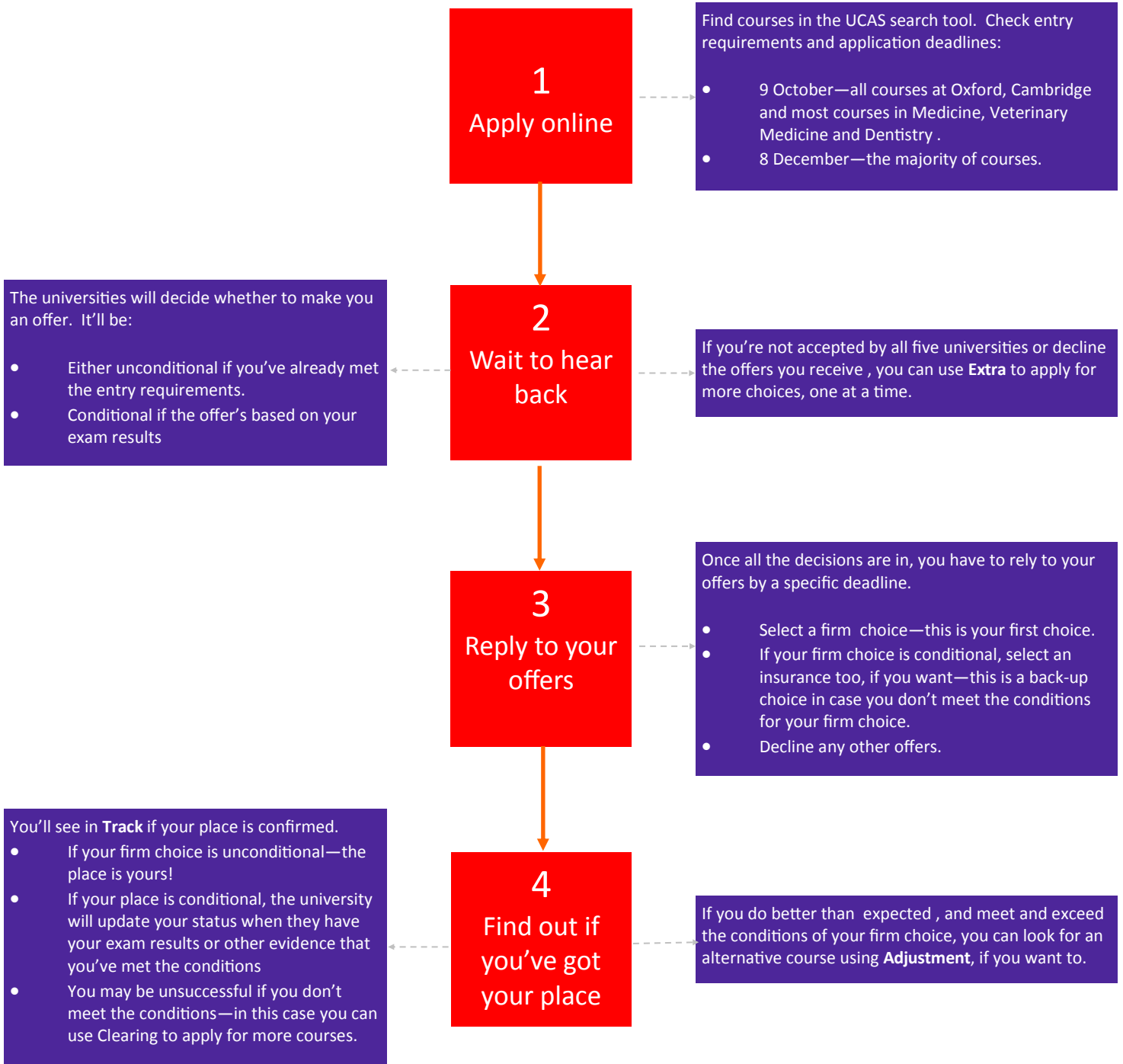
In the event of possible entrance interviews please be mindful of these deadlines and dates of school excursions / planned family excursions. To avoid any clash please ensure that '**dates unavailable for interview**' are entered in the appropriate section of the electronic application.

Sixth Year Performance

Universities are of the view that a strong performance throughout Sixth Year is a reliable indicator of future success. Offers of a place at university are made on the basis of subjects studied in Sixth Year and predicted grades included in the reference. Where there is a change to the subjects studied in S6 or a significant change to the predicted grades as indicated in the school reference, universities may have to be informed by the school.



APPLICATION FLOWCHART



ACADEMIC SKILLS

Look at these academic skills shown below. Choose what ones you think are the most important ones for your intended course of study and write how you have demonstrated this skill during your time at school. In which subjects have you shown the skill? In what ways have you demonstrated it? Give examples to illustrate your claims.

Written Communication Skills

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Oral Communication Skills

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Numerical Ability

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Graphical and Artistic Skills

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HIGHER ORDER SKILLS

These are skills where you are demonstrating that you have an *understanding* of a topic, rather than just *knowledge* of it. For example in Physics I might **know** that $e=mc^2$ but if I **understand** that idea I am able to apply it to the real world and use it to develop nuclear power. You show in higher order skills that you can apply your knowledge, draw conclusions, analyse problems logically and set out ways of solving them. You are able to evaluate information and sources and critically analyse them. Choose some of the higher order skills shown below and show how you have demonstrated them in your schoolwork.

Handling / Critically Analysing Textual Information

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Handling Numerical Data

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Evaluating Information

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Drawing Conclusions

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Thinking Logically and Organising Information

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PERSONAL SKILLS

Look at the personal skills shown below. Choose what ones you think are the most important ones for your intended course of study and write how you have demonstrated that skill during your time at school. In which subjects have you shown the skill? In what ways have you demonstrated it? Give examples to illustrate your claims.

Ability to Plan your Work and to Study Independently

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Organisational Skills

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Leadership and Team Working Skills

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Interpersonal Skills

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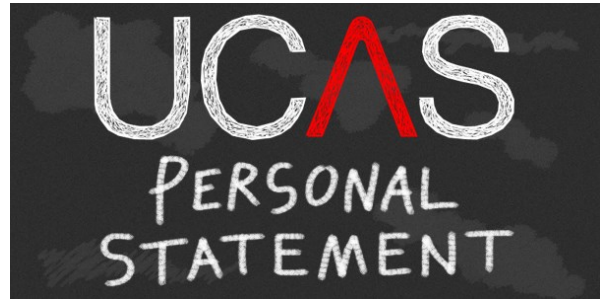
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WRITING YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT

The statement is challenging but not overly difficult if you plan it properly. Divide your statement into sections and link your skills to the courses you are applying for.

By now you should have an idea of the types of subject and degree you want to do at University e.g. Law / Finance & Accountancy / general Arts Degree / general Science degree / vocational degree such as teaching or nursing & midwifery or optometry.

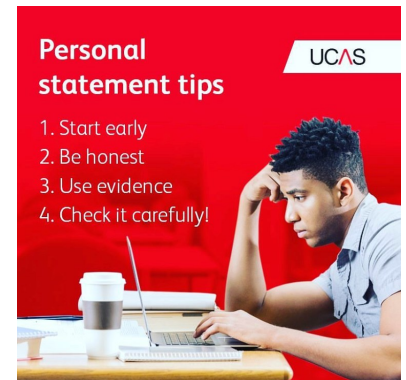


What Is The Aim Of The Personal Statement?

Some universities don't interview applicants, so the only information they have about you is your UCAS form. Admission tutors will look at 1) your academic qualifications and results / predictions; 2) your personal statement; 3) the academic reference. If you are applying to an oversubscribed university course, and everyone applying is likely to have good grades, the personal statement is the only thing that tells you apart from other applicants, so you want to try and make yours as good and personal as possible.

You must remember that university admission tutors are busy members of the university academic staff, with many other commitments. They tend to read UCAS forms in batches when they have the time. They will suffer from personal statement fatigue as they read hundreds of them. Make things easy for them:

1. Get your application in early: this is a sign of real motivation and good organisational skills.
2. Make your statement easy to read, interesting and concise.



What Are Admission Tutors Looking For?

1. Students who are academically suited to their course: meeting the entry requirements is essential. Make sure you check individual universities' general and department specific requirements. For some very oversubscribed courses, your predicted grades as well as SQA results are your first hurdle.
2. Students who have researched the subject and show that it is realistic for him/her
3. Students who display strong motivation and commitment to studying the chosen subject at university; who devote and will continue to devote time and effort on their studies. For certain vocational subjects (medicine and related courses, veterinary science, teaching etc...) relevant experience will be absolutely essential.



What Makes A Good Personal Statement?

1. A good personal statement is clear, waffle-free, interesting and devoid of spelling mistakes, bad punctuation and poor grammar.
2. Paragraphing is essential. Therefore your statement must be fairly concise.
3. It should give convincing reasons for your choice of course and show that serious research has been undertaken into the subject, especially if it is new to you.



It should convey a genuine liking for studying (extra-curricular reading linked to your chosen subject; attendance at taster courses; conferences, talks outside of what the school has to offer), evidence of a mature attitude (position(s) of responsibility at or outside of school) and a rounded personality (wider involvement in school and/or community).

What You Must Not Do In Your Personal Statement

1. Plagiarise an existing statement in part or in full: this may lead to your application being withdrawn by UCAS.
2. Use gimmicks such as jokes: jokes are a bad idea.
3. Ramble on and on and repeat what you have already said, only in a different way: get to the point!
4. Use a quote without a clear purpose.

Structure Of Your Personal Statement

1. Your personal statement is written in an essay format, in paragraph form.
2. It must be a maximum of 47 lines long on the UCAS online application section. It must be typed in Times New Roman, font size 12. **Check spelling, punctuation and grammar. This must be perfect so don't rely on the computer spellcheck only.**
3. Always word-process your statement, have it checked by your Pastoral Support teacher before putting it on the UCAS system.

There is not one correct structure for your Personal Statement but the content must be logically organised in clear paragraphs. For example:

- **Paragraph 1:**

Introduction to the subject, the aspects you're interested in and why you want to study the course you are applying for.

- **Paragraph 2:**

Work experience/ Shadowing placements as well as additional activities you have undertaken like attended lectures, read articles, spoken with professional in the field.

- **Paragraphs 3 and 4:**

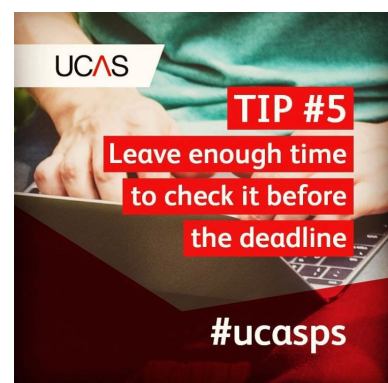
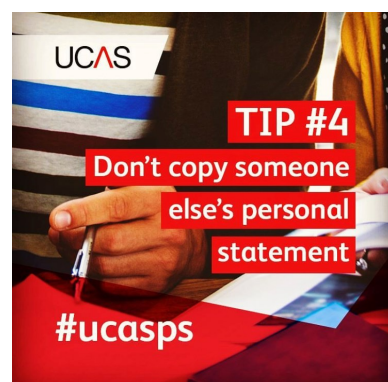
What you have done related to the subject that isn't already on your UCAS form. This could include project and coursework completed in the higher and advanced Highers. It could also include relevant activities at school.

- **Paragraph 5:**

Your interests outside of school, particularly those that show you are a responsible and reliable person able to work well as part of a team as well as independently.

- **Paragraph 6:**

Your goal of attending university and a memorable closing comment. All personal statements should be word processed to allow you to edit easily. It will also allow an easy transfer on to your UCAS form as you have a window of 35 minutes to do so.



EXAMPLE PERSONAL STATEMENTS

There are a number of exemplar personal statements for a variety of subjects in this booklet. More can be found at the following websites:

www.studential.com/university/applying/UCAS-application-guide/personal-statement-examples

www.thestudentroom.co.uk/university/personal-statements/personal-statements-by-subject

It is essential that you don't copy any of these in part or in full as the software UCAS uses detects any similarities and this could jeopardise your application.

The screenshot shows the Studential.com website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Home, Forums, GCSE, A-level, Freshers 2017, Applying to uni, and University. Below this, the page title is 'Category: Personal Statements by Subject'. A prominent blue button says 'Create your personal statement'. Below the button, there is a search bar and a navigation menu with categories like GCSEs, FURTHER EDUCATION, GAP YEARS, APPRENTICESHIPS, ENTERPRISE, UNIVERSITY, POSTGRADUATE, FORUM, and SHOP. The main content area is titled 'Subcategories' and lists 90 subcategories in three columns, starting with 'A' (Accounting, Actuarial Science, American Studies, etc.) and 'E cont.' (European Literature, Event Management, etc.). To the right, there is a 'Personal Statement Examples' section with various categories like 'Top Rated Example Statements', 'Personal Statements By Subject', 'Personal Statements By University', 'International Student Statements', 'Mature Student Personal Statements', 'Gap Year Personal Statements', and 'Postgraduate Personal Statements'. Each category includes a small image and a brief description with a 'Find out more' link.

LAW

I have decided to pursue a career in Law because I am attracted to understanding why and how rules of Law are decided upon. These whys and how of the Law being broken by members of society also fascinate me, and I would appreciate the opportunity to study the legal system.

Many of the traits that I am confident would make me a good lawyer stem from skills that I developed at high school. I have excellent communication skills; these have been established through my study of English, French and Modern Studies. This was further developed through my Drama course, which has allowed me to master the art of speaking in front of an audience confidently. This ability would be key for a lawyer speaking in court. I have demonstrated my confidence in public speaking in a practical setting when recently I volunteered to talk to a group of parents about study skills that they should encourage their children to undertake for their examination preparations.

An integral part of a lawyers job is problem solving. During my time in the physics department I was able to attain the skills of thinking through a problem clearly and logically, and coming to a thoughtful conclusion. By studying History and Modern studies my ability to evaluate evidence was developed and I was able to gain the skill to discern between a number of different viewpoints. By studying subjects such as Maths, Physics and Modern Studies my ability to interpret figures has been enhanced. These subjects all gave me the opportunity to think in the abstract by taking theoretical information and applying it to real World situations.

In terms of personal traits I exhibit a wide range that would be suitable for a lawyer. At school my time management and planning skills were challenged through my physics investigation. My organisation skills were continually advanced during my time at high school. This is seen through my work always being completed in a logical and methodical manner. I was able to do this because I learned the art of planning my time effectively. In sixth year we are given the opportunity to 'buddy' a pupil from lower down the school. I took this chance to show my care and compassion for others who have concerns, which I can help to fix, which would be important for a lawyer who has a client in a difficult or stressful situation. In the same way I recently assisted a class of students from the lower school in the physics department. This gave me the chance to demonstrate my eagerness to help those younger than me. Over three consecutive years my classmates voted me into the pupil council, which allowed me to show my capabilities in presenting the opinions and suggestions of others to those in authority in order to lobby for change for the benefit of all.

Work experience with a local firm of solicitors has provided me with an important insight into the reality of legal practice. During my time with the firm I helped in the Claims, Executory and Conveyancing departments. Through visiting clients I was able to witness the inter-personal skills required of a lawyer in their dealings with the general public. In the Claims department I was shown the wide variety of work done by a law firm, from high profile litigation cases to minor personal injury claims, each requiring an attention to detail and thorough knowledge of the law. In addition, time spent in attending criminal court was especially captivating as it provided an insight into the cut and thrust of legal debate, and the importance of properly framing a legal argument.

The more I acquaint myself with the law and legal proceedings; I know unreservedly that this is the career path that I wish to pursue.

POLITICS AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Since childhood, I have been passionate about history. My interest in politics is a somewhat recent development, inspired mostly from the Scottish Referendum which prompted many young people like me to become politically engaged as the future of our country was decided.

Initially an avid student of history, I grew increasingly involved with politics as I was encouraged to become more politically astute by virtue of my power to vote. Politics has since developed into an interest that I feel increasingly inclined to pursue and I feel it is too substantial for me to overlook.

I have grown up in a household that encourages political discussion and debate. This has ensured that I am capable of considering different viewpoints and improved my skills in forming political arguments. I aim to remain politically aware by reading newspapers daily to remain up to date with current events, notably the Guardian and the Independent as these are personal favourites of mine. I have attended many debates, mostly on the Referendum and the Israel-Palestine conflict, out of personal interest and a desire to learn the ideal course for Scotland during this crucial period in Scottish history.

Politics is for me, a pathway to establishing a fundamentally better world than we currently live in. My study of history has been an important factor in developing my political outlook. This study has enabled me to develop skills in analysing and discerning issues, as I feel hindsight offers considerably more insight into political matters.

It is a personal belief of mine that people require an understanding of the past to shape the future. I believe that this has helped develop my skills in evaluation and ensuring all factors are considered, which I feel is an important asset in the study of politics.

My personal interest in the reformation and restoration periods has prompted me to read scholars accounts of these periods, e.g. Weir and Starkey.

As a pupil, I feel I am apt at my subjects and devoted to my studies. I am independent and can be self-sufficient when required. My subjects were chosen to improve my knowledge in the field of social studies and this reflects my passion for this line of work. I have always been a keen reader and this has helped me become more articulate in expressing my views. I feel this would be a valuable asset in the study of politics.

I did work experience at St Angela's Primary School. My interaction within the school taught me on the value of communication and improved my self confidence in my own abilities, which I believe was important in establishing a sense of belief and righteousness in my own views.

This has enabled me to enhance my formal speaking skills, as well as improving my ability to form arguments. I have also become involved in the paired reading scheme in my school which has helped me develop my social and communication skills and prompted me to read more widely.

My study of modern studies has taught me the value of being able to understand opposing viewpoints and has stressed the importance of being able to adopt this skill. I think an important strength in the study of politics is the ability to assume an open minded approach to issues and to weigh all matters clearly, as I feel bias restricts the depth of evaluation of an issue.

Studying Religious Moral and Philosophical Studies (RMPS) has also developed my interest in philosophy. I feel this study offers deeper insight into historical and political matters as it promotes higher thinking and reasoning skills which I feel would be beneficial when considering political topics. I feel that my studies throughout my school career have prepared me adequately to study politics and I am hopeful the skills acquired from my studies will be transferable to my future career.

COMPUTING SCIENCE

Until the end of 5th year, I didn't really know what I wanted to do after high school. So, to help me decide on my 6th year subjects, I read through my university prospectuses and the different degrees that I could study; taking note of the courses that I thought sounded interesting, and Computer Science sounded the most fascinating by far. The ever expanding market and huge variety in the areas of research was intriguing, and many of the areas sounded very interesting and enjoyable to work in.

My studies of Product Design at high school have developed my design and evaluation skills, which I further improved upon alongside my teamwork and presentation skills through Business Management.

I consulted some of my relatives who work in different areas focused around computer science to find out more about the different jobs and what is involved in some of the different fields, which I found very interesting.

In preparation for my 'crash' higher computing course, I wanted to gain a basic understanding of programming before returning to school. I obtained a guide on programming in TrueBASIC, which I used over the summer to learn to program. I really enjoyed this, and after working my way through the booklet, I wanted to learn even more.

I began watching the Harvard CS50 course online. This covers the basic foundations of computer science. In this course they used the programming language 'C', which gave me a very basic understanding of this, and the difference between it and TrueBASIC, as TrueBASIC is a much more general purpose language used for learning to program, whereas 'C' has more practical implications in software development.

As a member of my schools Junior Saltire Team, we had to design a device to a certain specification to transfer wave energy to electricity. We were one of four teams to reach the final, before which we improved our design and built a functioning prototype, which required a lot of planning and good practical skills. In our first year we were awarded 2nd place, and the next year, we built upon what we had already learned, and came 1st nationally.

Deadlines were very important for this, as well as working closely and efficiently as a team, which required good communication skills. Having good evaluation and design skills was also very important for improving the design. All finalists took part in STEM challenges, where different companies set tasks for the teams and rated each based on their performance and teamwork, so good teamwork and communication skills were very important. When all scores were added up our team came first. I also joined the Film club within my school, which is run by a much larger charity called 'IntoFilm', and I was given a place on their Youth Advisory Council. This involves regular meetings at their headquarters in London, where we are asked for our opinions on certain issues by the board of directors. I later became a member of the Talent Development program with IntoFilm. This opened up many opportunities for me, including the chance to interview actors and directors such as Elijah Wood, Asa Butterfield and Steve McQueen in live and pre-recorded interviews and red carpet premiers.

These experiences have made me much more confident and comfortable speaking out in large groups, as well as helping me gain an understanding of the importance of the different parts of a team.

I feel that the skills that I have gained throughout my school career as well as the extracurricular activities I have been involved in have prepared me well for continuing my education at university level. I also believe that I have the passion and the drive needed to study computer science as well as the desire to learn more and build upon my previous knowledge as much possible.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION / SPORTS SCIENCE

Sport has had a major influence throughout my life. To study sport at university is a lifetime ambition which I would feel honoured to achieve. I have personally gained so much from my involvement in sport and would relish the opportunity to demonstrate the values of living a healthy lifestyle through my chosen career path. Helping others grow and develop through the use of sport is something I feel extremely passionate about and is all I aspire to achieve.

Through being involved in numerous sporting placements such as shadowing a teacher twice a week for a third year Physical Education class, leading sport related activities at a local nursery and studying to be a Sports Leader in my Sixth Year, I have learned that people have different levels of communication needs and that sport is an effective way to help people overcome their difficulties. I am very interested in the practical element of sport, but I also wish to gain a deeper understanding of the theoretical aspects.

I also have a very keen interest in biological processes and am extremely interested in the mechanics of the human body in reference to lifestyle choices and health benefits. From a very young age having participated in numerous sports, such as tennis, football and badminton, I understand and have knowledge on a vast array of activities and can use this to my advantage if I was to study sport at a higher level. I believe that sport and competition can bring out the very best in people and I have learned this first hand through participating in numerous sports and achieving success in them.

Throughout my sporting life, I have played tennis for Glasgow, football for Glasgow City and Celtic girls and achieved a brown belt in karate. I am a naturally very sociable person with a realistic and positive outlook on life. I am energetic and dedicated to bettering the lives of others. I am a member of Helping Hands, which is a charity group that focuses on raising money for those that need that extra boost of confidence in life. In my Sixth Year I opted to volunteer as part of the "Wayside Project", where I spent a few hours of my time helping out at a local soup kitchen for the homeless. This developed my understanding of the contrasting realities in life, and from this developed my empathy for those in need. In addition to this, in the summer of 2014, I along with a group of about 20 other youths, embarked on a trip to Lourdes, to provide help and service for poor and less able pilgrims. On this trip I acquired specific knowledge, like the importance of teamwork, communication, and understanding. As well as this I learnt that compassion, respect and patience are extremely important in life, and this confirmed my view that I wanted to pursue studies which I would find both rewarding and enjoyable.

I understand the importance of being educated, seeing it as an opportunity to better my future and help me progress into a successful and fulfilling career. Personally I really enjoy the dynamics of education and understand that a hard working ethic will bring personal rewards. I believe myself to be a very hardworking individual who is fully committed to learning new things and I am open to any criticism or advice. I have a hard working attitude which is evident from my 6 years of having a paper round, and my current job as a sales assistant in Clarks. Through my work experience I have been able to improve on my confidence, learn how to interact with people of all different ages and backgrounds and how to use my intuition more effectively and independently. I am a creative minded individual, with a competitive nature that drives me to want to do my best in every aspect of life. In my mind I would excel in studying sport at a high level and with the support and encouragement of such a well-established university. I would do all I can to achieve success in the sporting sector.

PRIMARY TEACHING (2)

Working with children in education has given me great satisfaction. It has challenged and developed me as a person. From as early as I can remember, from my first day of primary school to the last, I had always wanted to be a teacher. Witnessing the compassion and caring attitude of my primary teacher towards me and countless others only augmented my desire. As I found what primary school teachers do on a daily basis fascinating and intriguing, my decision to apply to the primary teaching course was made early.

I spent time and effort researching information about this profession in order to obtain a solid foundation of knowledge regarding this subject. My work experience and voluntary contribution in a local primary school has developed my interest and desire to engage in education. I currently attend a primary school once a week, shadowing and observing the teacher, which has provided me with an insight into the daily learning and teaching and the challenges that accompany this. Organising a week's work experience at Glenwood nursery has also given me a greater insight into the demands of dealing with younger children and the stresses and pleasures involved in the profession. Despite this, I found that I was still intrigued and driven to pursue a career in this field as I was able to see the rewarding nature of coping with the challenges.

As a 6th year pupil, I find it important to give back to the school community. I am involved in class mentoring, which involves attending a first year PSHE class every week and being a figure the pupils can rely on and speak to about any problems they may be facing. This has given me the opportunity to work one to one with pupils and deal with difficult situations such as those a primary teacher might face on a regular basis. I understand that listening is an important skill to possess for any primary teacher, and through my experiences, I feel I have enhanced these skills greatly. I am also part of the SCIAF group which develops my organisational skills and shows my willingness to help others and wanting to work in a team to create change.

Last year I volunteered in a local care home for patients with dementia. I had the opportunity to sit with people, which gave them someone new to talk to. This broadened my understanding in several areas as I had never worked with anyone going through the struggle of dementia. Within this role, I had the opportunity to further my communication skills as well as demonstrating my ability to work comfortably with a range of people. Furthermore, a large part of the Sports Leadership course which I previously completed, includes travelling to the local primary school to help pupils increase their understanding of sport and increase their enthusiasm for it. This gave me a chance to deliver several lessons to a diverse range of age groups and to adapt, where necessary, these lessons to meet pupils' individual needs. In addition, this course helped me gain confidence and the oratory skills needed to teach a class.

I am an enthusiastic sportswoman. My passion is dancing, and I have competed with my team at a high level for almost ten years now. I have achieved great success, with a highlight being when I represented Scotland in the US Finals in America. My team is currently training to compete at the USASF Dance Worlds in America in 2015, where I will have the opportunity to represent my club and country.

I have developed excellent teamwork, communication and organisational skills, all of which I believe to be essential skills for a primary teacher.

I appreciate the challenging nature of my chosen course of study, and I am certain I have the determination and dedication required to succeed in this vocation.

MARINE BIOLOGY

Science has always been a passion of mine, the advances that it has had and the boundaries that it has broken have astounded me and I want to be part of the next breakthrough. Studying Biology at higher level intrigued my thoughts, opened my eyes to the key functions of living organisms and, most importantly, cemented my vision in having a career in the field and to explore the science of our living planet.

Going to talks about The Genome Project and the stem cell research have not only increased my Biological knowledge but also my desire to part of the Biology community and to make advances of my own. My interest has led me to be looking at articles on a website "Science Daily" which encompass the entirety of every aspect of Biology, including marine and freshwater articles which I have a passion for and a desire to have a career in. In school I put 100% into everything I do; I work diligently and responsibly, focused on handing in exemplary work every time. I give my expertise in biology, as I help out in a third year class currently doing the national course and my musical abilities as I help out with an S1 music class, both twice a week. Outside the classroom I am a prefect with many responsibilities in the school life I also help out at a lunchtime club for younger pupils with additional needs and disabilities. Finally my rugby ability and expertise has enabled me to start and coach a 1st year rugby team which has gone from strength to strength through tournament victories and the building of confidence of some of the team that had never played before.

Outside of school I play rugby for Whitecraigs under 18s which has given me so many key life skills such as discipline, working in and as a team and having respect for myself and others as well as many successes such as a whole season undefeated. I also have played guitar since primary four which has honed my musical ability. During the winter of 2013 I undertook the position of a young leader in the 145th scout troop after being asked by the leader and I have gained so much from this experience in skills such as kayaking first aid skills and child management. I know that I can take all these skills and experiences forward with me to University and use them to the best of my ability in achieving my goal. I will also take in the new experiences and opportunities that University life will offer me and give my best in getting the full benefit of each one. I want to be a part of the next breakthrough.

EARTH SCIENCES

Over the past five and a half years I have developed an interest in several science subjects, particularly Chemistry and Physics I have enjoyed the practical nature of these courses and I am fascinated by the theories of Astronomy and Astrophysics. I have also enjoyed studying Biology and Computing and have an interest in how these subjects might be connected in Artificial Intelligence. Through studying Geography I have also enjoyed learning about the physical geography of the earth.

I am from Glasgow and over the past few years I have attended Physics lectures, careers conventions and University open days and have spoken to students and professionals in the fields of Chemistry, Physics and Geology. All of these activities have reinforced my belief that the institutions around Glasgow are best suited to my aspirations.

I have taken part in field trips to the French Alps which involved studying the physical geography of the area, during which I was able to put my theoretical knowledge of geography to use in the practical environment and work on group and individual tasks.

I also took part in football coaching in Spain. Throughout I worked with other pupils who I was unfamiliar with, allowing me to develop communication and team work skills. Through practical work in Chemistry and Physics I have also had the opportunity to develop the ability to work in a group or as a pair to carry out experiments. This has given me experience in lab work as well as in writing lab reports. I have also completed coursework in Computing through which I have developed an interest in computer programming and software development as well as expanding my ability to work independently. I have also been able to develop good study skills through my higher exams.

I am also the oldest of four children in my home so have had a position of responsibility in my family as I have assisted my parents in looking after my younger siblings.

Chief among my hobbies is playing and watching football. It is a team sport and I think that it has helped to develop my team work and communication skills. I also enjoy motorsport, in particular karting and car racing. I also enjoy reading. I mainly read fiction but also try to read newspapers and online news reports.

My primary reason for wishing to enter into higher education is to obtain a degree level qualification which will allow me to get a job in a field in which I have an interest. I hope to work in a scientific research role or in a practical or field work centred job and it is my belief that obtaining a degree will be the best course of action for me to achieve this goal.

I would also like to take advantage of an opportunity to travel abroad through a student exchange program. This University has excellent foreign connections which have been an important contributing factor to my applying to study here. I see this as an opportunity to make connections with employers and people in other countries and to see and experience a different culture to that which I am used to.

At present I feel I am at a crossroads about to take one of the biggest decisions of my life in choosing a University degree. I have spent a lot of time researching where and what I want to pursue and where I want to pursue it and feel studying here is the best choice I can make.

In turn I feel it would be the right choice for the University to invest in me as I feel I could bring many things to the table.

I am a hardworking, dedicated, high achieving student with an unflagging enthusiasm for my subjects of choice. In addition to my academic abilities I feel I am a rounded and confident individual who is looking forward to every part of life at this University, academic or otherwise.

In short I hope you agree with me that the best way to fulfil one of the biggest decisions of my life is to pursue my education at this University.

BUSINESS

Academically I have always striven to achieve my best and am a very determined individual; hence I knew that going to get a degree at university would be the next natural step to take.

I would like to apply for a business based course, as I have always been fascinated by the range of career opportunities that a business degree could make available. From a young age I experienced what it is like to work in an office which deals with all aspects of commercial property including development, asset management, leasing and sales. I was interested to learn that property involves dealing with local, national and international occupiers, developers and investors. In turn this experience kindled an interest in finding out what makes a business work, how profits are generated and in trying to understand the role marketing has to play in a ventures success or failure.

At university I would like to fully explore the mechanics, operation and regulation of business and hope to achieve a skills base that would allow me to work within the United Kingdom or further afield. The courses that I have decided to apply for have both a mathematical area in the course as well as a business side. A business based course is my first choice as I enjoy mathematics and would like to further the base skills that I have mastered at school. At primary school I initially struggled with written skills and basic calculations however, following a diagnosis of dyslexia in primary 5,

I have risen to the challenge and now, when it comes to maths, it appears almost like a language that I naturally understand. In sixth year I enrolled in a Business class studying Higher Business. I have found the course to be stimulating and informative and again this has led me to look at business degree options. I have nourished and developed my academic skills as well as my communication skills. I have also grown in my analytical skills and this has helped my time keeping. In turn I have also developed my listening and organisational skills this will help me in the future.

For my work experience in fifth year, I went to 29 studios in Glasgow; here I was shown how graphic designs were developed. I also got to spend time with the two entrepreneur owners who provided an insight on how to run and manage a company. One of the owners, who told me that she too was also dyslexic and gave me tips on how to overcome some problems I may face both in further education and in business life. 29 studios provided my first insight on how competing time demands could be managed, on the need for efficiency and how to organise my time accordingly. In addition I had a placement in a boutique called Frocks and Fancies. Here I assisted in sales, stock taking and in dealing with customers. I was able to work on my communication skills and I also had to organise stock and take payments. Here my marketing and selling, skills were developed. From a young age I have always been interested in art, mostly fashion and textiles, because of this I have a very creative personality. I love to try new things and explored different concepts. I enjoy trying out different ideas and trying to push the boundaries. With art I have achieved practical life skills that will help me with the future development in my career.

I have been a member of a 29th Glasgow scouts first Newlands since I was 10. During this time I have enjoyed travelling sport and meeting a wide variety of people throughout the UK and Europe. In particular I have enjoyed an international jamboree in Kandersteg in Switzerland, have completed RYA level 1 and 2 power boat training. Amongst other activities I have participated in 10 mile charity walk for Yorkhill hospital and have recently volunteered in the soup kitchens in Glasgow. Overall, I wish to further my skills and knowledge at university and I have realised that my drive and passion to work and learn will lead me to achieve my goal.

INTERNATIONAL FASHION BRANDING

I am a highly motivated individual who is passionate about fashion. Having studied all aspects of fashion over the past 6 years at both school and University level, I have developed a deep interest for the subject and have decided to devote my career to fashion. I am fascinated at how fashion can be influenced by art, music and politics. Fashion is a way of self-expression and is important in both a design level and marketing level.

I am currently studying Higher Business Management, Higher English and Advanced History. I have learned how a business is run and how they operate which is essential in the fashion world. I am also taking part in a vocational course at Glasgow Caledonian studying Fashion Brand Retailing. From this course I have learned more in depth detail about the essence of fashion from fabrics and design illustrations to the business and marketing that is involved. Having also achieved an A at both Intermediate 2 and Higher Fashion textile and technology, I have cultivated a strong knowledge of Fashion which I would be able to apply at university and in the work place.

I currently have a part time job at KFC. I have been working there for a year now and have developed essential life skills. I have learned how to manage my time between school, work and my social life. I have also learned how to work as a team. I am able to transfer these skills into working in the fashion industry by taking responsibility and selling additional products which can be applied marketing and selling techniques.

Aside from my academic achievements I also take part in extra-curricular activities. In my school I have been an avid member of my school's eco committee in which I was part of the team who gained the school its first green flag for the work we had carried out. From this I have achieved a Diana Award for my contribution to this committee for being an Active Campaigner. I am also a prefect within my school which involves taking part in the prom committee which has built my communication skills to work as a team and organize an event. I am also a PSHE mentor and a tutor in our school's fashion department in which I use my knowledge of all aspects of fashion in order to tutor to the best of my ability. I am currently working with a young girl who is struggling with the fashion course which I am helping her with both practical and theory work.

Out with school I am a young leader at my local Girl Guides. In this volunteer work I have learned how to take charge of a group and how to work with groups. I am also a member of a dance team in which we were the ACDC Scottish National Champions. I have been a member of this team for 14 years which highlights my commitment to a great passion of mine. In addition to this, I am also an active member of my parish. Over the years I have been an altar server and have trained others also in this task, and I am currently a member of our music group in which I sing and also do readings during mass. My parish has encouraged me in all these endeavours which has built my confidence in public speaking and performing.

I would like to pursue a career in fashion and am willing to work hard in order to do so. I will put all my effort in at university and beyond to be successful in this field of work. I know that I am capable of completing any task put in front of me and will complete it to the best of my ability. I will also overcome any obstacles in my way and keep on track to achieve my overall goal. I know that I will be an active member of the university community just as I have been at my school and personal life. I am a hard working individual who will put all my effort in doing the university proud as I think university will give me drive and confidence to learn more about fashion as a whole. I would relish the opportunity to study fashion next year at University.

AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING

For much of my life I have been interested in understanding how things work and science enables me to do this. During my secondary education this particular quality of my character has developed into an enjoyment of science subjects, in particular maths and physics. My decision to study these subjects at an advanced level was a natural progression which has allowed me to explore them in greater depth and increased my desire to study these subjects at university.

Studying maths and physics has provided me with the opportunity to learn important skills such as problem solving, numerical accuracy and using my analytical abilities in order to draw valid conclusions from given information. My science background means I adopt a logical, focused approach to the completion of tasks and have an eagerness to learn and develop skills in a practical setting. My participation in my Advanced Higher Physics investigation has demonstrated my ability to take initiative and work well under pressure ensuring strict deadlines are met. Studying maths at an advanced level has provided a new challenge and also highlighted an aptitude for problem solving and dealing with figures. My study of chemistry prior to sixth year has also been beneficial in deepening my understanding of science based problems faced in society. I have been proactive in gaining work experience linked to possible career opportunities including spending time at Ernst & Young to obtain an insight into how my skills may be applied in an Accounting and Finance setting where I particularly enjoyed the dynamic working environment, variety of work and examples of teamwork which I feel I would thrive in. As well as this I have arranged work experience at Rolls Royce in February 2015 to gain a deeper understanding of the field of engineering which I have already considered at various open days. Undeniably, my aspirations for the future revolve around the continued study of maths and physics.

In sixth year I have become more involved in wider school life. I am taking a Sports Leadership course involving arranging sports activities for younger school children such as hockey tournaments, playground games and indoor athletics. These activities require excellent communication and organisational skills. As a prefect I have various responsibilities including maintaining discipline, providing direction and working alongside my peers as well as staff. I am a member of the senior school netball team and enjoy the team work and competitiveness associated with the activity.

My hobbies and interests are of great importance to me which have contributed to the skills I have acquired over the years. I have attained both my Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award and I am now working towards the Gold. As part of this award scheme I have gained a variety of new and valuable skills including orienteering, which has improved my interpretation skills and participation in outward bound activities which highlight my aptitude for learning and my desire to fulfil my potential. My involvement in Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and outward bound activities has also shown my capacity to work in a team as well as revealing the enjoyment I get from doing so. For almost three years I have volunteered as a Brownie leader at a local Brownie pack which requires a lot of dedication and commitment. I am currently employed as a waitress at Patisserie Valerie where I gained confidence and displayed my ability to quickly adapt and learn on the job. I have a desire to embark on new and adventurous experiences.

My determination to succeed and highly motivated nature ensure I will approach the transition from school to university with enthusiasm and focus to overcome any challenges faced by this exciting prospect of a new and unique learning experience.

ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

To me, Engineering is a subject of fundamental importance in the world. A subject which has changed our lives for good; where every object around us can somehow be traced back to an Engineer. This I find amazing, and I hope to study Engineering at University in order to deepen my understanding of this beautifully complex subject.

From a very young age, I have always been fascinated by the vast subject of Engineering, building many crude contraptions with scrap material. Being quite young, I had very little understanding behind the physics of the systems that I had created; and the fact that I did not understand only fuelled my longing to gain deeper insight.

Naturally, due to my curious nature, I wanted to find out more. I thoroughly enjoyed my time studying Mathematics and Physics throughout school, with the applications of numbers and physical theory continuing to fascinate me to this day. Studying these subjects has given me the ability to now understand the systems that I could not previously, whilst also teaching me how to think analytically, critically and in detail, attributes in which I believe are a must for Engineers.

My studies of Graphic Communication and Product Design also proved to be valuable; with Graphics enabling me to process complex technical drawings, and Product Design - teaching me how to address real life situations, and how to analyse genuine user issues and to create a solution. I hope that studying Engineering in University will allow me to apply these skills, as well as strengthening them so that one day, I too can make an impact on the world.

During last summer, I was offered to do volunteer work at a design workshop and manufacturing facility, MAKLAB. This facility operates with both small scale electronic machines, such as 3D printers and small scale laser cutters, and also large industrial machinery, CNC routers and lathes. The experience I gained there was valuable, as I learned a large amount about industrial machines - how they work and how to operate them, as well as the components that make them work. I also gained much insight into the safety standards and expectations in the workplace, where potentially dangerous machinery and power tools could easily cause harm, and how I was expected to act in such a place.

This experience also gave me further opportunities to work in a team, and to complete the task at hand by listening to other people, and working as one. This, coupled with my passion to extend my accumulated knowledge to others has led me to be involved in private tutoring. Being thoroughly interested in engineering and science, I mainly tutor Mathematics, Physics and graphic communication. Tutoring not only allowed me to extend my communication skills, but through preparation of learning material, I found many new ways of carrying out certain processes that I had learned in school. I believe that this ability will prove to be an invaluable skill in University, whether working by myself or as a group.

In my free time, I enjoy reading scientific articles and papers, topics which are mostly concentrated on Engineering and Science. I deeply enjoyed "Science - In 100 Key Breakthroughs" by Paul Parsons, where he takes the reader on a journey through time, showing how each new scientific discovery, coupled with human thinking and engineering, created the modern world. I am also a very enthusiastic sportsperson, my favourite sport being badminton. I have been involved with the school badminton club for a number of years.

A degree in Engineering from University would form a sturdy base for me to enrich my knowledge and understanding, allowing me to step into the real world and make a difference, improving the lives of many.

PAINTING / ART AND DESIGN

Art is a strikingly exciting pathway which requires motivation and enthusiasm. It is the part of everyday life which I look forward to. I am fascinated by the variety of ways in which I can express my personality and uniqueness through art. Art demonstrates my individuality as I am a creative individual who has grown, broadened and progressed substantially throughout my work. I wish to study fine art as I am a self-motivated, productive individual who adores painting and drawing.

Personally, I am interested in the several different colour palettes that can be used to represent emotions and feelings and I love using dark, bold and vibrant colours throughout my work. I preferably enjoy working in a large scale and producing a range of artwork using different types of media. This shows throughout my folio which I am currently working on in school, as my theme consists of emotion. In my folio I have used one body part, the hand, to represent the many emotions that exist in the world today. The artists Albrecht Durer and contemporary artist Caroline Westerhout are two of the main artists that heavily influence my folio as they both incorporate the hand into their work. These artists have helped to develop my concepts behind my ideas leading me to discover different colour palettes. This overall inspired me to use a wide range of different media. In addition many photographers especially Man Ray's photography has greatly influenced my folio because his element of composition is exciting. I attend a Saturday portfolio preparation course which has given me huge insight into the world of art. I have also visited art exhibitions in Kelvingrove art gallery and Tramway which I found inspirational.

Being part of the Indian Asian community where many parents aren't keen with the idea of their children being involved in art, during summer I volunteered at local temple day youth camp I introduced, organised and taught, with the help of other volunteers, art and crafts activities to children aged four to thirteen years old. This motivated other children to express themselves through art and religion and encouraged children to attend the temple which changed the parent's outlook on art. Also in the Temple I was part of a youth group called young Sikh leaders, this improved my communication skills as I was involved in many events including doors open day tours that involved me to engage with the public. Being a school prefect I am required to be a responsible individual assisting staff in the school. For some weeks after school, I was involved in helping second and third year painting a mural at church after school on a Friday. I have also talked in front of first year parents about subjects including art. Being part of the social committee, involves me in organising social events including school discos & many more social events throughout the year. Furthermore I am part of a swim team and train in early and late hours, before and after school. From these activities I have become a more creative, confident and aware individual. I would love to go to art school as I would be given the chance to introduce new concepts & ideas to the art world. It will also give me the chance to study more in depth about art and improve on my knowledge of art. I have a creative imaginative, passionate personality who is willing to further pursue an artistic career within fine art as I contain that motivation, enthusiasm & commitment.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

I have always had a keen interest in having a career in the care industry. After working with young children with additional support needs in a local school I have decided that becoming an Occupational Therapist would be the best career path for me. I believe that such a career would suit both my abilities and my temperament as well as giving me the job satisfaction that comes with being an Occupational Therapist. I am excited about the challenges that this choice in career has to offer as well as being able to see individuals improving their quality of life by helping them achieve their personal goals.

My interest in this career path was confirmed when I started my volunteering at Isobel Mair School where I was working with a number of children. By shadowing the teachers I was able to see what it takes to look after a child with substantial needs and so I am aware of the difficulties that may arise. As part of my volunteering I am asked to work one on one with the children by carrying out sensory activities.

This involves helping them touch different types of materials, singing and other methods to help strengthen their senses. As a result of being able to interact with the children I was able to build up a better relationship with each of them individually and therefore could identify what they liked and disliked. As none of the children could speak it was important for me to consider their reactions through facial expressions and body language. In addition, I worked with some of the equipment used to aid the pupils so was able to see how they functioned and how they benefited the children.

Throughout my time in secondary education I was able to build up my communication skills. Once a week I dedicate my time to helping out at the Pupil Learning Centre where I work with individuals in the lower school. I feel that young people find it easier to communicate with someone that is closer to their age than a teacher or member of staff. By communicating with them I was able to identify the problem areas and therefore was able to give them the correct help and advice. This led to improvements and also gave the pupil more confidence in their work. I also carried out my work experience in a local primary school where I was able to work on speaking to those who I considered colleagues which I feel is an important skill to have in this career path especially if I am working alongside nurses, parents or carers. I had numerous responsibilities throughout my time there in which the teachers relied on me to carry out to the best of my ability and to the highest of standards that the school is renowned for.

Studying Human Biology I have gained more knowledge about the human body and how it functions. In addition, by studying Chemistry and Modern Studies I have learned the importance of using accurate statistics and carrying out appropriate research. Religious Studies has allowed me to look closely at people's moral beliefs and why they hold them and so now I have a deeper understanding of the way people think. Furthermore I improved my initiative skills by taking part in a Sports Leadership course. This involved me coming up with sports sessions which were suitable for children of different ages.

This meant making the difficulty of the activities easier for younger children and more complex for the older pupils. If a child was struggling with a certain activity then it was up to me to modify it slightly to make it more achievable and enjoyable for them as possible.

Organisational skills were also key in this course and so it was important for me to have a set lesson plan listing everything I was going to do from warm ups to the equipment I required for that session. I am excited about the new challenges and experiences that I will be faced with at University. I hope to be able to further improve the wide range of skills that I already have.

SOCIAL WORK

I have always enjoyed being able to help people in a variety of ways and when it came to choosing a career path, I realised that studying Social Work at University would be the most fulfilling course choice, and enable me to learn the necessary skills that I need to pursue this career. I looked into this at length and attended University open days on Saturdays which has made me more eager to apply for the social work course. I have spoken to the school Social Worker during a careers evening and she was honest about the challenges involved, however I feel I am ready to take this on. I am a friendly, hard-working individual who enjoys a challenge. I genuinely believe Social Work is the right course for me and I also believe I could be very successful in it and reach my potential. Helping people to make their life better is what I enjoy doing, even the littlest bit, gives me great satisfaction. By helping people to help themselves, influences them to make a change to their own life and therefore bettering themselves and their family.

I have been volunteering as a sports coach with Whitacres Community Academy since August 2014 and I must say I thoroughly enjoy this role. I coach football and basketball to young children with a variety of needs and abilities. With the assistance of the other coaches, I have developed a training programme that we can adapt according to the age and size of the group. This experience has helped me to develop important skills such as communication and time management. I have received positive feedback from the parents and it has been great to discuss how their child is progressing. It is very rewarding seeing the children develop their confidence. They see me as a role model and someone they can trust; this in turn has also increased my confidence. I find it rewarding helping children achieve goals (as well as score them) of their own. Over the October Week in 2014, I took part in a Glasgow Sport Young Leaders programme. I was nominated by the founder of the club that I coach for, Whitacres. It involves gaining coaching qualifications and leadership skills. Other skills involved are planning, organising, delivering and evaluating. As part of being offered a place on this, it will involve me taking part in Glasgow Sports events as a volunteer which I am looking forward to.

I also take part in a community placement scheme and assist at a local care home during my free periods in school. I became aware of the residents individual needs and I also became aware of the important role of social workers for helping the elderly people who are vulnerable. When I visit I like to spend time with the residents, hearing of their life experiences. I very much enjoy this and I feel that the elderly people I have spoken to appreciate having someone young to spend time with. This community placement is very worthwhile and I look forward to it every week. As well as the volunteering I do, I also have a part-time job at a local fish and chip shop. This gives me the chance to interact with customers and work in a fast-paced environment. Through having this job, I have developed my listening skills and gained customer service skills.

Overall, I feel I have relevant experience and the motivation to complete this Social Work course at University. I am highly motivated to succeed, I enjoy a challenge and I am hard-working. I feel that if I was to be accepted on this course. I would have skills and abilities to cope with it.

NURSING

I have a desire to study child nursing as I see myself committed to a career in providing people with a high standard of care. I am a caring, patient and confident student who tends to put others before myself and am very enthusiastic with everything that I do. I follow instructions carefully, am very observant and can remain calm in any given situation. I feel that nursing will be an incredibly rewarding career path and will enable me to pursue my commitment in providing health care to others in need.

I would like to learn more about health care and develop my knowledge to qualify to practice as a nurse. I am currently studying human biology at school which helps me to understand how the body functions and what goes on within it. The study, interest and understanding in this subject are one of the many factors that have influenced my decision to apply for my chosen course. I have a cousin that works as a nurse and hearing the stories of her experience has encouraged my interest further. I really do believe that it is a career worth following and will never become disinterested as every day is different and offers new challenges.

This year I have undertaken voluntary work in a care home for 1 hour a week for 7 months. This has provided me the opportunity to gain real experience within the healthcare sector whilst enabling me to improve upon my practical and communication skills. By aiding and being involved with them, I have acknowledged that assisting the residents in the simplest ways can make a real and positive impact on their lives. I also help out with children's pony rides during spring/summer, improving my communication with children and being responsible for their safety.

I have completed a 4 hour St. Andrews first aid course and a grade 6 first aid course at Cardonald College. I have also put myself forward as a prefect, a volunteer at a care home, volunteered to help sell poppies and raising money for charity and have achieved a silver duke of Edinburgh award (pending).

In my spare time I enjoy playing music and socialising with my friends. When I find the time I play football, developing team and communication skills and physical fitness. I try to keep a healthy balance between my school work and free time to prevent falling behind with my studies. My friends and family are very important to me as I am very much a people person which I feel is a crucial quality to possess - especially within the field of nursing.

On completing the course, in the future I see myself as a registered nurse working within the NHS in a friendly environment.

USEFUL LINKS

St Ninian's High School

Website: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/snhss5201617/>

Twitter: @s6stninianshigh

UCAS

Website: www.ucas.com

Twitter: @ucas_online

Instagram: [ucas_online](https://www.instagram.com/ucas_online)

Facebook: @ucasonline

Youtube: www.youtube.com/user/UCASonline

Sutton Trust

Website: www.suttontrust.com

Twitter: @suttontrust

Facebook: @suttontrust

Youtube: www.youtube.com/user/suttontrust

My World of Work

Website: www.myworldofwork.co.uk

Twitter: @mywowscotland

YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/myworldofwork

The Complete University Guide

Twitter: @compuniguide

Instagram: @compuniguide

Studential (Personal Statements)

www.studential.com

