

I am applying to study optometry because it provides the perfect combination of subjects and satisfaction I want to achieve from a job. Maths, physics, and biology are some of my favourite subjects, this paired with my interest in helping people in a healthcare profession was some of my criteria I used when looking for a career that best suited me. I love helping people and if that is by helping them with their eyesight all the better. Studying sciences has been a major factor in why I became interested in the health sector and looking to pursue a career in the field of health care. By studying human biology, I have learned a great deal about the diverse types of human cells, their purpose, and why they are important for the human body. The aspect of chemistry which I enjoy the most is conducting various experiments to learn concepts. My experience with chemistry and biology has been enjoyable and because of this I am eager to study optometry. I know that as an optometrist it is vital to have effective communication skills because I have visited the opticians a couple of times with my little brother. The optometrist could guide my brother through complicated procedures-as my brother is six years old-by using simple words and overall trying to not distress him about the tests. I understood that it is important for an optometrist to have compassion and patience towards their patients-especially children-, these acts of simple humanity can very much impact how a patient feels about undergoing tests and can ease them of any potential uneasiness about the tests. In school I am a mental health ambassador-someone who tries to promote positive mental health around school-and as one I have shown empathy towards students who were going through tough times. Another important characteristic of an optometrist I became aware of through these visits is effective communication skills. I believe I have effective communication skills because I have worked in a team in several subjects throughout secondary school.

To further my knowledge of healthcare I managed to get a part-time job as a health care assistant in the NHS. I found this experience especially useful as it developed my understanding of the health sector. Some of the things I found interesting was interacting with patients, helping them with personal care, washing and dressing. I had the opportunity to with the multidisciplinary team by sharing knowledge, this experience added to my communication skills and proved to be helpful with working as a team. I felt a personal satisfaction in being able to make patients feel comfortable by attending to their needs, for example helping the elderly who have mobility issues move around. Through this involvement in the health sector, I understood the pressure that is on the staff however the satisfaction of good feeling I have after helping people was beneficial to me.

I consider myself a very thoughtful person, who respects others which I believe will help me become a good role model in school. I am a very friendly person who is talkative and joyful. I believe in putting a smile on everyone's face through my actions. I am considered among my peers to be a hardworking individual in anything I do, striving to reach as close to excellence as possible. During my time as a mental health ambassador, I became involved in fundraising initiatives such as a non-uniform day to support mental health charities.

I believe that the optometry course can prove as a rewarding career for me because it can help develop my knowledge and skills needed to help people with their eyesight problems which will in turn lead to an improved quality of life. I am excited about this course and fully passionate and ready to develop my knowledge and understanding of optometry.