



# ECONOMICS PERSONAL STATEMENT TRISTAN

DUKES EDUCATION

Economics is, to me, the most important subject affecting the welfare of the world's population: the recovery from the current world recession, the effects of globalisation and the solution to climate change are all economic problems with profound consequences for the future of mankind. My desire to understand and answer such problems is at the centre of my decision to study Economics at university.

I have a keen interest in current affairs but have recently been inspired by the deeper level of understanding gained from the writings of leading economists. Galbraith's 'Great Crash of 1929' was a truly insightful read and I was shocked that our current crisis could occur when we have such a strong understanding of the past.

My passion for Economics led me to apply for the Bank of England's distinguished gap year scheme. After successfully passing a competitive recruitment process, involving an interview and admissions test, I secured the job in London where I have been working since early September. My position in personal banking requires me to handle foreign currency transactions with high accuracy and to tight deadlines. The chance to work at the centre of the UK financial system has, so far, been unforgettable and has also been a great opportunity to expand my learning: I have relished in the opportunities to go to talks by senior economists at the Bank and also to seminars on topics such as financial stability and the Bank's core purposes. With further plans to attend lectures and more courses at the Bank, I am trying to expand my Economics knowledge at all points.

This desire to further my Economics knowledge was evident throughout my A-level study of the subject: whilst researching for an essay for the school magazine I came across Game Theory and delved into this topic. James Miller's 'Game Theory at Work' showed me how useful a tool Game Theory is at predicting how economic agents should behave; I also learnt of Game Theory's limitations and found it fascinating looking at how economic agents actually behave in the real world. Due to the mathematical nature of this topic and many other topics in Economics, I have taken steps to maintain my maths skills whilst on my gap year; in my spare time I am currently studying to complete my Further Maths A-level. I hope this will allow me to join university with as high a maths competence as possible.

My commitment to Economics has been recognised by my teachers who have awarded me the school Economics prize for two consecutive years. I was also selected by my teachers to be the captain of the school's Target 2 team. This competition, organised by the Bank of England, was a great opportunity to apply my economics knowledge and allowed me to gain a much more advanced understanding of monetary policy than the regular A-level does. Ultimately our team gained second place in the regional final.

Outside academic work I took part in a number of valuable activities; I gained the benefits of teamwork from my time at the school boat club where I rowed competitively for six years. The focus and determination derived from this competitive environment has been beneficial when transferred to my academic work. At school I was also an active member of the school orchestra and concert band being a keen Clarinetist. I played in numerous concerts with these groups and was also fortunate enough to undertake a music tour to Belgium with them.

This participation in a wide range of activities was rewarded when I was selected to be a school prefect for my final year. This position was of great enjoyment and allowed me to positively contribute to school life by helping with the organisation of school events. At university I hope I can fully take advantage of the extra-curricular opportunities offered to me.

I eagerly anticipate the challenge of studying Economics at a higher level and look forward to learning in an environment where the boundaries of knowledge are constantly being pushed.

**Commented [TD1]:** My aim was to have quite a bold start and make it absolutely clear why it is that I found Economics so interesting.

In retrospect I would say it works reasonably well.

**Commented [TD2]:** I think it can be beneficial to highlight some wider reading.

Just make sure you have indeed done the reading!

**Commented [TD3]:** This is actually really risky in hindsight! Quite a bold statement that would likely be picked up on in an interview. Admissions tutors could easily disagree with the comment. With something like this it would have been smart for me to have been very prepared to argue my case

**Commented [TD4]:** This section is pretty specific to me but I felt it worth using quite a lot of space to highlight it.

If you have something unique then it is worth adding because otherwise candidates can seem quite similar.

**Commented [TD5]:** Again I was attempting to differentiate myself from other candidates by mentioning wider reading.

I didn't actually get asked about this at my interview but I had prepared in case I was asked.

**Commented [TD6]:** Here I was trying to show that I am not just some guy interested in Economics but somebody with wider interests. Make me seem more human.

**Commented [TD7]:** Brief close which I think is quite effective.