



**MEDICINE PERSONAL
STATEMENT
HANNAH**

DUKES EDUCATION

My decision to study medicine has been a personal journey evolving over many years and is therefore mature, confident and considered. I am now entirely certain that I want to study and practice medicine and my experiences in healthcare have served to confirm this decision and inspire me for the future. I have an aptitude for science and have enjoyed work experience as a research scientist, working on a HPV project this summer. Yet the area of science that intrigues me most has direct relevance to clinical practice. More significantly, I want to work with people: to understand why some stay healthy while others get ill and to do something practical to ensure the continued health of the healthy and improve the health of the ill. A career as a laboratory scientist would not allow me to achieve these objectives, while a career in medicine would.

Commented [HW1]: Clear, concise and punchy introduction

Commented [HW2]: Clear reference to something recent

Commented [HW3]: Clear justification of why medicine and not science per se

I believe that my A-level choices and outside reading have given me a sound knowledge base and experience from which to study medicine. Reading the New Scientist and other journals allows me to explore particular interests further. In three weeks shadowing health professionals, I am convinced that medicine's fusion of science and humanity would allow me to combine my love of science with my desire to work with people. Time spent with dedicated nurses on a general medical ward in York Hospital illustrated to me their essential contribution to the recovery of the patient, whilst observing a physician in clinic highlighted to me the problem solving nature of medicine and I found myself eager to be the one diagnosing and implementing treatments. Observing some invasive cardiology allowed me to appreciate the skills of the surgeon and during the consenting process I was particularly struck by the importance of trust between doctors and patients. This trust was also apparent when I spent time in general practice and I was inspired by the GP's knowledge of his patients and their families and the positive results that came from this. At Leeds Institute of Genetics, Health and Therapeutics, I was intrigued by the technology used in genetic testing and its role in the diagnosis of clinical conditions that mean things to 'real' people.

Commented [HW4]: Bit repetitive with above mention of reading- wasted words as could have said something else

Commented [HW5]: Clear amount of work experience in different areas and analysis of what was learnt/gained rather than just a list of what was done. This is important as shows reflection on what you want to do.

In 2007 I qualified as a Lifeguard and First Aider and have since worked as a volunteer, lifeguarding for children, the elderly and disabled. While initially daunted by the 'willing and able' pool session I was fascinated to see how mutual perceptions changed as we became more familiar. At York Arclight homeless shelter and as a mealtime volunteer at Addenbrookes Hospital, I have learnt that time invested can improve the quality of life for those less fortunate and that such commitment brings with it responsibilities to others. At my local nursing home I witnessed the importance of dedication and sensitivity in volunteers as well as health professionals, especially in palliative care. Next summer, I intend to travel to India to work in health care hopefully meeting new challenges while deepening my understanding of cultural and personal differences between people.

Commented [HW6]: Highlights time-frame as a continuous process and also as a learning experience for both parties

Commented [HW7]: Future plans, better if already done but need to be able to clarify ie speak about confidently if future plans

At school, I have contributed to many extracurricular activities, which I have found especially rewarding. Currently I sit on the School Ball Design Committee and captain the school hockey team. These have taught me the importance of being able to work both within a team and as an individual, which during work experience I saw was a fundamental part of the medical profession.

Commented [HW8]: Small focus on academics, larger 2/3rd on academics and why medicine

My passion for learning, coupled with a dedicated work ethic and personality, should enable me to derive the maximum benefit from entry to medical school. I have genuinely enjoyed my studies thus far and would wholeheartedly embrace the opportunity to now study medicine.

Commented [HW9]: Summing up conclusion, not too long but gets the message across. Possibly a little bit cheesy in hindsight, personal preference is important here ie what would you actually say