

# personal statement

Despite pursuing an academic path rather than an artistic one, I have always been captivated by the intricate patterns that permeate art, architecture, and the natural world. Drawing and painting have deepened my appreciation for these patterns, allowing me to perceive the world with greater clarity.

In October 2007, I embarked on a journey to study Classics and Modern Languages at Oxford University. However, my dyspraxia posed challenges that were more severe than anticipated, forcing me to withdraw during my first term. The struggles I faced with daily living and the accompanying mental health issues led me to pause my studies. This opportunity to re-enter higher education and delve into a subject that has long sparked my curiosity is immensely appealing.

While I lack formal art qualifications, my passion for the art form has remained steadfast outside of academia. Charcoal is my preferred medium, as it enables me to depict textures with remarkable precision. I also enjoy experimenting with paints, pencils, collage, and, more recently, tapestry. The prospect of exploring new media through this course is particularly exciting. My current life-drawing project on wood stems from my fascination with the forms and textures found in nature.

My artistic sensibilities have been profoundly influenced by the art I have encountered during my studies. A school trip to Spain granted me the privilege of experiencing various museums, leaving me particularly moved by Picasso's *Guernica* at the Reina Sofía Museum. Hieronymus Bosch's *Garden of Earthly Delights*, housed in the Prado, captivated me with its intricate details. Additionally, I was deeply moved by the works of El Greco displayed at the same museum.

As a devout Christian, I am particularly drawn to religious art and aspire to deepen my understanding of both Christian art and the iconography and architecture of other major world religions. My encounter with Moorish architecture in Toledo during my Spanish sojourn left an indelible mark on me. I am also intrigued by the psychology behind art and the empowering effects of artistic self-expression. This fascination has led me to support the work of The Autism Acceptance Project, an organization that showcases the artistic talents of autistic adults.

My volunteer experiences have been diverse and enriching. I actively participated in my school's Youth SVP scheme, organizing clubs to assist local primary schools with reading initiatives. I also served as a Youth Leader at Edmund Rice Camp, a week-long summer play scheme for children aged seven to eleven. This year, I had the pleasure of working with children aged three to four at The Croft Nursery School in Newcastle-under-Lyme. This experience has significantly enhanced my collaborative abilities. Furthermore, my love for the countryside motivated me to complete the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (bronze) and participate in Student Cross, a 125-mile hike from Oxford to Walsingham.

Exploring diverse cultures, both past and present, is a personal passion. My fascination with languages has led me to pursue the study of ancient Greek. I also enjoy delving into a wide range of literature and engaging in creative writing, encompassing both fiction and non-fiction. My ability to publish several current events articles online further demonstrates my writing skills.

My curiosity about language, literature, and culture provides a broader context for my artistic enthusiasm and serves as a constant source of inspiration.