

## LANGUAGES

Having been born and brought up in Germany, living there for a considerable number of my formative years and moving to the UK only when I was 11, I have always been fascinated by the differences in both language and culture between these two countries. This undoubtedly prompted, at least in part, my interest in studying languages and geography at A level and has influenced my interest in business and marketing and the contrast of approach between Britain and Germany. I enjoy living in Wales and have many friends here. My study for the Welsh Baccalaureate has allowed me to consider aspects of the society to which I had not previously given any thought, such as enterprise support, social structures and the way in which the Welsh Assembly governs political life in the principality. It has been particularly interesting to reflect upon the substantial differences there are between parts of England and Wales in relation to the availability of work, homelessness and other social issues considering their relatively close proximity. I frequently visit relatives in Germany and I am even more forcefully struck by the differences in social perception, views of business and public services and response to the media amongst my acquaintances from one country to another. I feel that a study of business combined with language would allow me to gain a greater understanding of these differences, would increase my knowledge and understanding of European culture and the ways in which this large community functions, and allow me an insight of particular value to companies whose operations span both countries.

I want however, to explore different possibilities before settling on a particular career and am seeking to broaden my interests even more during my time at university by immersing myself in the social and community life there, as well as studying. Keen to do something to make a contribution to my community, I helped to raise funds for the Haverfordwest Ladies Choir and took part in a sponsored swim on behalf of Arthritis research. I also undertook voluntary work at a local animal sanctuary, weeding, collecting leaves, tidying paths and cutting back hedges which formed part of the requirement for my Duke of Edinburgh award. I am active and outgoing and enjoy new challenges and experiences. During my time with Air Cadets I flew a glider, learned to march in close formation, spent an exciting weekend on manoeuvres and took introductory courses in first aid and air force structure and procedures.

I value commitment to tasks and completing what I have set out to do. This principle has allowed me to accomplish many things including the bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. I gained this a couple of years ago and particularly enjoyed the hiking, camping and orienteering parts of this as well as working together with others as part of a group. I like to be busy, have done a great variety of jobs and actually worked since the age of about six, as growing up on a farm meant helping with the crops and animals. Since coming to the UK I have worked as a cleaner at a local caravan park and waited tables. I enjoy serving customers, waitressing prompted my interaction with many different types of people and taught me how to deal with the unexpected, it has frequently forced me to prioritise and make quick decisions. All my activities and experiences have given me a good level of confidence in myself. I feel able to cope with most situations and am keen to actively participate in university life. I know there will be many opportunities and challenges both academic and social and I relish the prospect of embracing these. I believe that I have much to contribute and that my time in further education will provide a unique chance to explore my abilities and prepare for my adult life and career.