

SCIENCES – PHARMACOLOGY

I have always had a keen interest in the biological and chemical sciences at a cellular level. How substances can affect the function and dysfunction of the human body, as well as individual cells fascinates me. Pharmacology combines my main interests in the sciences, and I would relish an opportunity to deepen my understanding and develop my interests further. The continual discovery and development of new pharmaceuticals excites me, as there is always something new to learn. I find the prospect of working in a field that is heavily involved in the introduction of new medicines inspiring. Having a father with rheumatoid arthritis, and a grandmother with diabetes, daily medication has been a part of family life since childhood. This was when my curiosity with drugs, and their effects on human metabolism began. To satisfy my thirst for knowledge I have attended various conferences, including 'Medlink' and 'Medwales'. I found one lecture on the use of performance enhancing drugs in athletics particularly interesting, where the differences between enhancement and cheating were debated. This led me to undertake further research on the subject, which helped me to understand that although drugs can be useful, there can often be ethical or economic issues. These talks confirmed my desire to undertake studies in this field. I was also fortunate enough to experience a medical work environment at my local hospital. Observing various parts of the hospital, especially the laboratories, was inspiring, and provided motivation for me to learn more. I also spent a week in a GP surgery, which increased my awareness of the huge role pharmacology plays in everyday life. I saw how many people benefit and rely on a wide range of pharmaceuticals. Volunteering at a residential care home also allowed me to witness how many types of medication there were, for a variety of diseases.

My passion for science led me to take A-levels in biology, chemistry, and maths. I especially enjoy the practical lessons in chemistry, as I feel it allows me to apply scientific theory to real life situations. In biology, I particularly enjoy the human biology topics; it amazes me to think that a change in a single cell can have such a significant impact on the body as a whole. Maths has improved my problem solving skills and determination considerably. Aside from my studies, I have worked in a water sports' shop, which has helped my communication and time management skills. I was recently voted Deputy Head Boy at my school by teachers and students. This involves organising charity and social events, as well as organising a team of senior prefects, and talking at open evenings. This has improved my confidence, as I often have to speak in front of large audiences. I have raised over GBP 1000 independently for various charities, in a variety of ways; this is an accomplishment I am very proud of. I am an active member of the 'Childline In Partnership with Schools' (CHIPS) scheme in school, an anti-bullying scheme providing younger pupils a place to discuss their problems, which has developed my understanding of how to relate sympathetically with people. This year I captained a school dodgeball team, which won the league. I thoroughly enjoy working as a team and keeping fit. I have completed my bronze, silver and gold duke of Edinburgh awards. This has developed my communication, and leadership skills. I gained a basic first aid qualification as part of the award. I believe achieving the gold award shows determination, commitment and perseverance. These are attributes I feel are vital in any career, and hope to apply them to university.

I am very enthusiastic about pharmacology, and always welcome a challenge. My determination would ensure I put my all into not just the course, but university life in general. I understand that a career in pharmacology will provide me with life-long learning opportunities, and would enjoy learning more about the fascinating subject.