

Chemistry

One of the things that attracted me to Chemistry is its consistent relevance in current affairs. It is a science at the heart of many present concerns, such as the expiration of finite resources. Knowledge of the subject propels society forwards and I would love to be amongst those who study it in detail. My enjoyment of Chemistry first originated from conversations with my uncle, a chemistry graduate, when I was younger. He used to discuss with me the specific properties of the elements and the ways in which they merged to form new and completely different compounds, sparking my interest in the subject. Since then, having studied Chemistry at a higher level, that curiosity has been developed into a much stronger interest. Now I have grown to particularly enjoy areas such as physical Chemistry, learning how to modify external factors to more efficiently and speedily form substances, whilst maintaining my original interest in the elements. I have done this particularly by reading the text, "The Periodic Kingdom: A Journey into the Land of the Chemical Elements", by P. W. Atkins.

Recently, I took part in a Nuffield Science Bursary scheme, which allowed me to spend four weeks in the research labs of Lincoln University working with PhD students, observing the effects of chemotherapy on breast cancer cells. This was an excellent opportunity for me to experience first hand what a career in the science industry would be like. During the placement I was able to work with advanced equipment such as automatic pipetting devices, microscopy equipment, a haemocytometer, and centrifuge machinery. I also learnt how to safely handle toxic chemicals, such as trypan blue, and was even lucky enough to use cryogenic equipment. This vastly improved my practical skills that I think will be invaluable during a Chemistry degree. It was a fantastic experience that I am very pleased to have had. It was refreshing and compelling to work in an environment filled with people with a genuine passion for their work. The placement also confirmed my interest in a science career and has allowed me to apply for the degree with certainty that it is what I wish to do.

Beyond the academic world I have numerous interests. My main love is cycling. This started simply by cycling to and from school each day, which later on inspired me to join my local cycling club, V. C. Lincoln. Since becoming a member I have enjoyed several disciplines of cycling, including road racing and cyclocross. Previously I have been a member of Sleaford Swimming Club for a number of years, and have attended events at Blankney Pony Club. As well as sporting activities I am a keen piano player, and have reached grade 5. I have been involved with a music club at my sixth form, gathering with other student musicians to play together informally. I would be keen to participate in University societies and sports clubs to continue enjoying my hobbies. Outside school I have really developed my sense of responsibility and learnt to understand the importance of time-keeping through part-time work. Throughout year twelve I worked weekly as a waitress at a local restaurant, which at busy times meant I had to work with consistent efficiency.

Currently, I devote an afternoon per week to working in my local cancer research charity store, having seen first-hand the great need for funding in this area. As well as offering me a great sense of personal fulfilment, it has been a useful experience, working with both colleagues and customers alike. Much of the time I am required to look after the shop floor alone, meaning that I must be on-hand and responsible at all times. The combination of my work experience, my enthusiasm for the subject, and my aspiration to work in the industry of Chemistry mean that I can apply for the degree without hesitation that it is the ideal course for me.