

## HISTORY/POLITICS

The world and the people it contains has always really fascinated me, especially the variety of cultures, languages and political systems across the globe. As an avid historian, I have been drawn to the aspects of History that study the relations between countries. Indeed, the events and break down in relationships between countries that led to both world wars and the political stand off of the Cold war, all have been areas of study that have inspired me to read international relations and politics, as an area of study at University. Analysing the past reasons for antagonism or cooperation between countries has made me conscious of the need to be aware of our current political climate and situation. Churchill once stated 'Politics is the ability to foretell what is going to happen tomorrow, next week, next month and next year and to have the ability afterwards to explain why it didn't happen.' Churchill's wry comment indicates the difficulty of judging the political climate, a part made all evident by the recent Arab Spring that no political commentator had predicted. Furthermore, history has also made me aware of how politics is not just global relations and government, the suffragettes made me realise how women had to fight for what, women today will take for granted, which was the right to vote and how the authority of women in society has changed radically, compared to the early 20th century. Thus, Politics covers a wide range of areas within our lives from individual and local concerns, that include issues over tuition fees, that resulted in rioting in London, to global issues like the Cuban Missile crisis, which could have ended the world. I thrive to understand European and global relations and why there is conflict in the World. The study of the European Union would further my knowledge of trying to understand the peace settlements and political legislations that occur today, for us to live in a safe, terrorist free environment. The European Union houses 27 different countries and maintained half a century of peace, as well as raising a single European currency. This encourages me to study how the union works and what makes it successful. My great interest to learn about, different cultures and international relations within Europe and the World has encouraged me to follow my passion to study a European language ab-initio in my years at university. I can see that potentially being fluent in a language would be a great benefit, as you can truly understand ones culture and history, when learning a language. I studied both French and Welsh at GCSE and also a basic grounding in German, which enabled me to get a basis in linguistics, and took me on an exchange trip to Lyon, where I could develop my French skills. This was a great insight into the French culture and different ways of living within Europe. I followed Welsh through to A level and is a subject I am very passionate about, I feel becoming fluent in Welsh, differentiates me from others, as where I live, few people speak welsh and this conveys how proud I am of my culture and shows how I have a passion for languages, culture, history and politics.

Not only do I have a keen interest in Politics, international relations and languages, I believe I have relevant skills and experience to enable me to cope in studying this at degree level. I recently spent a week on work experience with a conservative AM at her constituency office and at the Welsh Assembly Government, in Cardiff. This gave me a real insight into my countries own political problems, and what work a politician undertakes. I was lucky enough to sit in on meetings, research topics to construct into briefing form and help write questions to the minister, which she later went on and used in the chamber. After this work experience I was offered to return to her office during the summer term on a longer placement, which I hope to take up to further my knowledge within the field of politics.