Why do you want to study this course or subject?

Economics is woven into our lives even if we are unaware of its significance, from the simple buying of our morning coffee to the complex analytics of stock prices. Undertaking a degree in Economics will empower me to explore and question the reasoning behind everyday decisions using qualitative and quantitative methods. International Economics interests me due to the fact I have lived in seven countries, and it fascinates me that two countries such as the USA and Mexico can be so close to each other yet have completely different economic stabilities. In June, I attended an Economics taster day at SOAS University of London, which cemented my passion for the subject. The lecture focused on Environmental Economics, as this was the base of the professor's research. This particular topic fascinated me immensely, as what a country has to offer in the way of its natural resources can shape its economy and levels of trading. I was stimulated by his theories on the repercussions of money-driven leaders, who disregard the impacts on the environment to make more jobs, trade, and capital. This led me to read 'The Undercover Economist' by Tim Hartford, which divulges the hidden enigmas of conglomerate firms. I am attending a lecture at LSE in October where the speaker, Jean Tirole - Nobel Prize in Economics, is introducing his manifesto 'Economics for the Common Good'. I am looking forward to reading this, as he has a drive to illustrate how Economics can benefit everyone.

How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

My chosen subjects at A-Level will provide me with a solid foundation. Studying Maths has taught me the value of logical processing, which I can utilise when using statistical methods to forecast changes in the macro-economy and in econometrics. This is complemented by my passion for Business Studies, which has allowed me to recognise the importance of raw data as a stepping stone for actionable decision-making. I have found the leadership modules in Physical Education compelling, as they show me the art of communication between individuals and teams. This will be particularly useful when participating in economic debates.

What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

My desire to read Economics at university was reinforced by my week of work experience at Bloomberg in London. During my time here, I shadowed employees from different departments; the highlight for me was definitely in sales. The hustle and bustle of the trading floor was exhilarating and eye-opening. Witnessing the employees making fast yet critical decisions inspired me to open a Vanguard account, where I could invest my own money into stocks such as the UK FTSE 100. It is imperative that I track the performance and evaluate the best way to progress, as well as predict if external impacts such as changes in government could affect my

results. This sparked my interest in the financial modules of my degree. In considering career paths, I attended a networking session at the Bank of America Merrill Lynch, where I was captivated by an employee who outlined her journey to secure a job in acquisition and mergers. This fascination in management and leadership prompted me to read 'Power: A Radical View' by Steven Lukes, who explains the exercise of power in a 3-dimensional view. Outside of my studies, I work at Waitrose. As well as teaching me the values of communication and time management, I am intrigued about purchasing patterns among customers and how these reflect the current economic climate. Completing my Bronze, Silver, and Gold Duke of Edinburgh has allowed me to accumulate 120 hours of volunteering. Playing hockey at first-team level and coaching years seven to nine has shown me the importance of being organised. I have held the position of senior prefect at my previous secondary school and my current sixth form. I am confident that my work ethic and experiences position me well to further my study of Economics.

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As someone who is always up to date with current affairs, the foundations that our civilisation is based on interests me, and the ways in which this is done through economic theory fills me with excitement. Millions of choices are made worldwide every second, all holding economic capability – for example, I have made the choice to study economics at university. This choice has numerous microeconomic implications to many people and is a decision made to satisfy my wants. Without me noticing it, I have made a decision based on basic economics. The regularity of economic decisions and the subconscious psychological nature of these fascinate me to a level that I want to pursue the subject and learn how the world can be made better as a result of choices that are made. My long-term plans are to improve my analytical skills and develop economic theories that can positively impact the world. I am also hugely interested in technology growing within economics and how this is implemented into all sorts of scenarios in different jobs. The drive and motivation I have behind these goals will push me to take every opportunity I have at university, aiming to achieve the goals I set for myself and continue to be a model student.

How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

My A levels all lend themselves to forms of economics, with mathematics allowing me to think critically, business studies exploring how organisations fit into the global economy and the bureaucracy that they are under, and geography as I inspect geopolitical decision making and how population affects economics as a whole. My critical thinking has developed since reading books on economics principles, while forging ever-changing opinions on how economies can be best run. My current read is 'The Bottom Billion' by Paul Collier, who feels strongly towards capitalist concepts and the freedom that this provides at all levels of a country's development spectrum. While similar, my opinions are not set in stone, as I am willing to listen to other points of view and expand my knowledge. I feel that competitive spirit is inside every human being, and is key to a strong economy. Jean Tirole is one economic theorist that I have read extensively, exploring his theories on regulation and the banking industry, blaming the 'bonus culture' for 'distorted decisions and significant efficiency losses, in the long run'. Delving deeper into his research uncovers how the competition for the strongest job candidates leads to lavish incentives to the employee which subsequently 'shifts effort away from long-term investments' and increases risk. I feel that reading many theories and opinions backed up with data can help to forge more well-rounded opinions, helping me to more deeply explore my passion.

What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

I am positioned as Head Boy at my school of over 1000 students, with the role given to me as a result of my peers and senior staff voting for me. With this role, public speaking has helped develop my communication skills and given me confidence to represent the school at large events. I have also led a group bringing basketball facilities to my local area, a sport I am very passionate about, bringing an £8000 sport investment as a result of this hard work. I was also the managing director of my 'Young Enterprise' group of thirteen, leading us to high profits by the end of it. Work experience at PriceWaterhouseCooper and Thomson Reuters, Canary Wharf taught me about the various algorithms and theoretical ways that businesses operate effectively including auditing and risk management. Sport is a huge part of my life, playing football at premier division youth level, and for the club's first team on occasion. I love training regularly, and being the captain of my youth team, supporting them as their goalkeeper and developing my teamwork and leadership skills. Daily reading on Bloomberg News and The Economist are helpful in knowing global and local news, but seeing how these headlines translate into economic thoughts is what often consumes my brain.

Why do you want to study this course or subject?

The perplexity of the future surrounding this field is what keeps me motivated to develop my understanding and put my mathematical ability into practice. I wish to be at the forefront of research in the fast-paced and unprecedented field, that is, Computer Science. Who knows what innovation may lead to in 10 years' time? The first time I was exposed to the work that goes into software development was when I had the opportunity to shadow a WorldPay employee, on the release day of a software project that had been worked on for several years. It provided me with an insight into the programming ecosystem and was the point where my interest in the fundamentals of computer science was sparked.

How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This interest inspired me to study Computing at GCSE, where I discovered the complexities behind simple processes, motivating me to progress onto Computing AS. I thoroughly enjoyed studying vector graphics, fascinated by how my calculations brought about 3D shapes using a software called Processing. The combination of subjects I study at A2 contribute to my analytical, experimental, statistical and programming potential; undoubtedly the skillset most sought after in the field of Computer Science. The study of logic and arithmetic is captivating as it creates challenging questions with unequivocal answers, encouraging me to partake in the Intermediate UKMT Maths Challenge where I achieved a gold certificate. To expand my knowledge surrounding concepts of Maths within Computing, I read "The Pattern on the Stone" by W.D Hillis. It changed my perspective on Boolean logic by introducing me to unconventional computational ideas; the most thought-provoking being the applications of abstraction. It was fascinating to see how our brain instinctively uses abstraction to break down tasks the same way a CPU functions.

What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

Furthermore, I am currently teaching myself Java object-oriented programming and Python using online resources such as Lynda and CodeAcademy. I believe this will well prepare me for the programming modules on the course, as well as the independence required at University. I have learnt how to build PCs for myself, family and friends, which has strengthened my practical ability and knowledge on how operating systems work with different components. I successively created a Hackintosh posing many challenges requiring me to troubleshoot. This developed my ability to break down a problem and solve it efficiently. Alongside studying, I have worked with Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, an investment bank, where my group was tasked to pitch a

unique idea for a mobile app in a Dragon's Den scenario. I volunteered to lead my group, whereby communication and teamwork were essential. Using the leadership skills I had developed during the National Citizen Service programme, my team claimed victory over forty others. Furthermore, I worked at FremantleMedia where I provided technical support to clients and shadowed the Technical Manager. I had to create a PowerShell script that fetched logs from clients which meant I had to learn the basic syntax for an unfamiliar language in order to develop a solution. This required me to meet a specification and a deadline, strengthening both my client communication skills and my ability to work under pressure. In addition, I assisted an IT Technician in a school enhancing my on-the-job training skills by learning to draft a new network; an unfamiliar process that is transferable to software design. To give back to my local community, I volunteered at a Food bank for several months, assisting with the organisation and collection of various food items from the neighbourhood. This boosted my time management skills by challenging my ability to meet deadlines under meticulous conditions. In my free time I enjoy digital photography and cinematography, providing a real-world application of Maths and Computing whilst combining elements of art and creativity; essential for a software engineer.

Why do you want to study this course or subject?

Due to our need for technology, there is a high demand for programmers. This in itself being one of the biggest reasons I wish to become a computer scientist. Nowadays, we mostly rely on technology and computers to strive and advance in fields such as artificial intelligence, script writing and programming to make our lives easier. I believe that this course's career prospects are future proof. My goals regarding career are to become a website designer or a game developer which I think are at a great search as the technological era is in continuous expansion. In my opinion, the world is in need for fresh young minds to expand this digital world furthermore; plenty of companies that operate online are very successful which makes the internet a great tool for people to develop businesses which has no boundaries for operators such as distance on the globe or having to go to a place to work. In short, I am a technology enthusiast and am keenly interested in starting a computer science degree which will give me the required knowledge and qualifications in achieving my career goal to be a programmer.

How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

As well as coding in my free time, my studies have also supported my decision to start coding. A-Level mathematics topics such as Boolean logic and arithmetic have driven me to explore coding further. I am especially proud to have achieved a Best in Year certificate in the UK Senior Mathematical Challenge in 2016. I have also taken part in the 'CIPFA in the Midlands 6th Form Management Team Game' in June 2017, which has helped me prove my management, teamwork, debating and mathematical skills, me being assigned an accountant role in the team. Through my further education, I have acquired many essential transferable skills. In maths, I have learnt to synthesise information from different topics to solve a problem. In science I have demonstrated I can condense large areas of study into essential pieces of information and then expand using my own knowledge. This will set me in good stead for tackling extensive reading lists and information garnered from lectures at university. The practical assessments in physics and chemistry have demonstrated to me the value of teamwork and the importance of taking other people's views into consideration, which will come to my aid during seminars and tutorials during at university.

What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

Outside of school, I have been learning Java using the website 'SoloLearn.com'. I know most of the basic commands in Java and I am comfortable with putting together small pieces of code. I

have also conducted research into the usefulness of Ruby, SQL, Python 3 and HTML, and have come to the conclusion that I would like to study Python 3, due to its general popularity amongst programmers. As I am trilingual, I find language-learning comes naturally to me, and this will help me with the above. During the rest of the time, I like going to the gym, enjoy long walks in the park and listen to music. I am an EU student and I have chosen to come to study in the UK because of the good reputation and prestige that UK universities have to offer. I am accustomed to the UK school system and environment since, leaving Romania, I have successfully completed year 11 and 12. I am positive that with your contribution, I will fully succeed with my passion for programming languages in my choice of profession.