

Personal Statement – Columbia University

In a world that often feels overwhelming, I've found clarity in my desire to make it better

My name is Steph, and I'm a Mexican student in a bicultural program with dreams of one day working for the United Nations

I want to be a voice for those who are silenced, a bridge between cultures, and someone who dares to imagine a more just world

I've always been curious about how societies work, why injustice persists, and what we can do to change it

That curiosity became purpose when I realized that politics and social sciences could be tools for transformation

Through school projects, debates, and leadership roles—like serving as president of the student council of secondary school

I learned to listen to others, advocate for what matters, and organize with both heart and strategy, these experiences shaped me

My story isn't defined by achievements alone

It's also shaped by everyday moments that taught me to be patient, adaptable, and kind

Whether helping in my family's business, supporting classmates, or listening when someone needed to be heard, I've learned that real strength often shows up in small acts of care—and that showing up for others, even in simple ways, is powerful

I've learned that real strength often shows up in small acts of care—and that showing up for others, even in simple ways, is powerful

What draws me to Columbia is more than its prestige

It's the way it lives at the crossroads of intellect and impact

The Core Curriculum mirrors my belief that education should be both wide and deep—helping us understand not just our world, but the world as it is

Columbia's global orientation aligns with my dream to one day serve as a policy analyst or diplomat for the UN, helping address global challenges

And beyond academics, I'm excited to be part of a community where difference is celebrated, where I can grow alongside others who challenge and inspire me

As someone who's bilingual, bicultural, and deeply curious, I believe I'll bring a unique perspective to Columbia

I've experienced what it means to navigate two worlds at once—to be rooted in one place while dreaming beyond it

I've led with empathy, studied with intention, and survived with grit

Most of all, I'm ready to keep learning—not just from books, but from the people around me.

Columbia isn't just a university I admire—it's a community where I see my voice, story, and purpose truly belonging

I'm drawn to its spirit of inquiry, its global perspective, and its commitment to meaningful change

I want to grow in a place where ideas are not just discussed, but lived—where learning is inseparable from action

At Columbia, I see the opportunity to collaborate with passionate peers, learn from brilliant professors, and take part in shaping the future

I envision myself walking its campus not only as a student, but as a future changemaker—shaped by experience, guided by curiosity, and driven by a desire to make the world a better place