

Personal Statement

Newcastle University - Sociology and Social Research MA

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In the spring of 2012, I organized a volunteer team with several university classmates to serve in a non-government charitable organization entitled Sun Village in the suburbia of Beijing. It was still fresh in my memory that during the chatting with a five-year-old little girl named Ming, she suddenly became gloomy when mentioning her parents were prisoners and she grew up in Sun Village. Years' experience of voluntary work has not only aroused my empathy for disadvantaged groups and unfairness, but also evoked my reflection on the causes and solutions of numerous existing and potential social problems in China, such as how to protect the rights and interests of vulnerable groups, how to carry out special education. And I believe the answers can be found in the category of sociology. Shortly before, I read *The Crowd* by Le Bon. Strictly speaking, it is not an academic monograph, but has a profound influence in the field of popular psychology, from which I have developed a keen interest in social psychology. However, blind compassion and monotonous reading is far from enough. In my view, to make some achievements in the field of concern, it is necessary to pursue comprehensive and systematic full-time study.

I would like to talk about the major difference between journalism, my undergraduate programme, and the sociology, the postgraduate programme I applied for. Generally speaking, the traditional journalism covers the core compulsory courses of interview, writing, editing, commentary, photography, where students can grasp more skills-oriented abilities through study. In contrast, sociology is a research-oriented discipline which provides students with a more in-depth and comprehensive view of the society. In China, it is interesting to note that when a journalism student and a sociology student simultaneously apply for the job of journalist, the sociology student will be the first choice. In my opinion, it may be out of the consideration that a skill can be grasped quickly through training, but the sharp, in-depth and comprehensive perspective requires long-term practice. In other words, sociological background is a prerequisite for becoming a prominent news practitioner in China. This is a consensus and one of the reasons why I want to pursue further study in sociology, that is, to become a good media worker. Of course, I must admit the practical reason of the broad employment opportunities offered by this programme. As an important reference for economics, political science, pedagogy, interpersonal relations, business management and other disciplines, sociology can be as wonderful as philosophy, and also as practical as mathematics, bringing more flexible choices for my future career.

I was awarded the bachelor degree of Journalism in Capital University of Physical Education and Sports in 2014. In campus life, I highly valued my academic performance. In the core specialized undergraduate courses, my test results were among the top 10% in the grade and I was awarded the Second Scholarship of School of Communication and Management for three consecutive years. Relying on the professional skills acquired in study, my prominent internship performance in the well-known newspaper China Daily rewardingly brought me the honor of outstanding intern and the job opportunity in the Propaganda Department of China National Opera House. However, I'm aware of that it is far from enough to be a complex talent with profound knowledge, which now leads me as an earnest student before your gate, seeking specific educational expertise and paths to realize my vision. The Sociology postgraduate programme

offered by your prestigious university catches my heart because of its prominent curriculum incorporating a wide range of opportunities, as well as abundant electives tailored to personal needs, where the rich learning resources, excellent faculty will be an ideal platform for acquiring knowledge and skills. If I'm honored to the admission, I would like to go deep into the research of the rights and interests of women and children.

As it known to all, the students and programme have always been mutually beneficial. The four-year undergraduate programme has equipped me with critical thinking, acquisition, writing, editing, comment, and photography skills. More than three years' experience as the stage supervisor and the person in charge of stage art project not only reserved some knowledge of art but more foster my ability of organization and coordination. Besides, I am proficient in various software of Adobe, and have a keen interest in and practical operations of picture editing, poster design, video shooting, and H5 Webpage making. I believe my accession will be bound to inject new blood to the programme.

As regards my future study plan, in the short run, I prepare to focus on improving my overall strength to break the individual bottleneck; I will strive to transform the interdisciplinary knowledge into research benefiting both the programme and university. While in the long run, I hope to grasp the essence of Sociology and improve my personal competitiveness through the study of the programme. After graduation, I hope to continue to serve in the publicity department in government organs, particularly the work related to my research area --- protection of vulnerable groups.

I believe the cultivation and guidance in Newcastle University will definitely bring me great momentum and advantages for my future expectations. Please kindly offer your favorable consideration, thank you.