# Personal Statement – Joakim Hertzberg

When I was 8 years old, I joined the sea scouts. My father works in the marine branch, so I always had that close, but this is where my interest in boats *really* started. Since then, I have spent 9 years sailing in the sea scouts, sailed one *Gotland Runt* offshore race, and worked with driving, improving, and maintaining passenger boats for *Vässarö*. However, my interests do not stop at boats. I’ve also during the later years of elementary school picked up an interest in mathematics and physics, and in my free time, one for land vehicles as well. The summer of 2023, I spent 5 weeks volunteering at the tractor patrol, learning how to drive, and do basic maintenance on tractors. Since then, I’ve joined a non-profit organization in my area, which uses different terrain-going vehicles, primarily BV206, to help the local municipalities during crises.

I am currently studying the Natural Science Programme in English at Kungsholmens Gymnasium – the #1 upper secondary school in Stockholm, according to *Ednia*, an independent company working with ranking of upper secondary schools. The Natural Science Programme has a focus around Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and English. As for extracurricular courses, I’ve taken the *offshore yachtmaster certificate*, *Short-range marine VHF radio operator certificate* (SRC), *Marine Engineer Officer class VIII* and *value-based leadership*. I have also studied pedagogical leadership, but that course granted no certification.

For my electives in 3rd year, I am choosing Mathematics 5, as well as Mathematical Models as electives – which is the subject that my diploma thesis will be written on. I believe the mathematical skillset gained from these courses will act as a great benefit for me in the Marine Engineering Programme – Fluid Dynamics, which is the track I am interested in.