**UCL Environment & Sustainable Development**

* Academic interests & reasons for applying to this programme
  + Why you want to study E&SD at graduate level
  + Why you want to study E&SD at UCL
  + What particularly attracts you to the chosen programme
  + What modules you’re interested in
* Any relevant experience
  + How your academic & professional background meets the demands of this challenging programme
* Career objectives
  + Where you would like to go professionally with your degree

I have always had a passion for the environment, originating from my childhood in New York City. Though I had little access to green spaces in the city, the lack thereof convinced me I was missing a connection to nature, making it my goal to not only learn more about sustainability, but to also incorporate it into my everyday life. In secondary school, the chance arose to take classes on urban ecology and environmental sciences, and I took the opportunity with both hands, supplementing the knowledge I gained from interacting with nature during hiking and camping trips to New York’s surrounding nature.

For my undergraduate dissertation, I am researching how people’s ability to access green spaces impacts their wellbeing across a number of markers with a focus on New York City, inspired by my childhood inquisitiveness regarding how access to green spaces was impacting my life. Through this project, I aim to better understand how urban policy can support human wellbeing by mapping the different green spaces in New York, investigating who uses them and why, and exploring the potential effects on their mental and physical wellbeing. I will be collecting survey responses, conducting interviews, analysing the data qualitatively and quantitatively using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Python. Being in London would give me the opportunity to consider urban sustainable development from a lens different from the one I have been given by my childhood in New York and further develop my knowledge of urban green spaces on my own time. At UCL, I would be interested in taking courses that would allow me to continue this interest, focusing on sustainability in cities through looking at urban planning and policy.

Recently, I had the opportunity to spend a summer in Israel working at a solar panel installation company. I am always trying to think of innovative ways to integrate sustainable living into both my current lifestyle and others’, and this job allowed me to do this is in a different way, marketing solar panels to people that previously prioritised aesthetic over efficiency of their houses. Part of my job was to produce videos of the installations and directly sharing these videos with potential customers. This gave me the opportunity to interact with people that did not necessarily share my views on sustainability, giving me a different lens to view transitions to sustainable lifestyles through. Additionally, the fast-paced nature of this internship allowed me to continue developing the ability to work hard on strict deadlines, which is a skill that I will continue to utilise throughout my life, especially when working on large projects such as my dissertation and studying at UCL would allow me to further develop these skills.

What I have experienced thus far in my career are relatively small-scale and individualistic ways to face the climate crisis compared to the ways I have learnt about in my courses throughout university. My joint degree of Management and Sustainable Development has given me a more holistic and interdisciplinary background knowledge with deeper insight into natural systems from a managerial perspective and how wicked problems are taken into consideration within businesses. Not only have I studied deeply within the individual disciplines of management and SD, but I have also been trained to think about their intersection. SD is a collection of multi-actor problems, where exceptional managers and management practices are imperative, from community recycling projects to multinational collaboration on global sustainability targets. Similarly, companies, governments, and NGOs now have a responsibility to be environmentally and socially conscious and proactively orient towards sustainable solutions to problems. This requires individuals with the domain expertise to execute largescale sustainability overhauls with confidence. Through reading POSTnotes and case studies, and writing essays on environmental economics and policy, principles of sustainability, and governing the Anthropocene, along with going on field courses and field trips, I have gotten a better grasp on the scale and complexity of wicked problems and the urgency of finding solutions. A master’s from UCL in Environment and Sustainable Development will deepen my current knowledge of sustainable development and broaden my scientific perspective of sustainability.

With my background in Earth and human systems and managerial solutions and my passion for urban sustainability, I hope to build a career using sustainable development to counter today’s problems. UCL offers courses that are solution-oriented with focus on case studies and real-life examples, which will make me a more effective leader and advocate and allow me to pursue my career in environmental management and will set me up with the necessary skills to come up with my own new, creative solutions to complex environmental challenges.