



Graduate School Statement of Purpose Example for International Relations (923 words)

Note how the following statement of purpose is truly personal and after reading this statement you feel like you know this applicant. They also leave you feeling a lot of emotions. Both warm and sad. And that's good. You want to create some sort of emotion in the admissions committee members that read your personal statement:

As an immigrant candidate, I am among those individuals who acknowledge their gratitude for a country that has enabled them to explore endless opportunities and to write this very statement. I have been given an opportunity, one which lets me offer a glimpse of my individuality, the story behind my journey, my capabilities and future possibilities. In recognizing my ethnicity, my academic progression, continuous community involvement, and work experiences, I have been equipped with the passion, knowledge and determination to pursue this graduate degree.

My journey was challenging, but has characterized the woman I've become, and solidified the mark I want to leave in this world. In addressing my ethnicity as an Assyrian, I was born in Iraq. At the tender age of 4, my family and I fled to Turkey as refugees in hopes of safety, and were eventually granted PR status in Canada. My parents' relentless will to leave all they had known to offer my siblings and I a safer environment, one which would enable us to flourish with opportunities, was inspiring and admirable. Assimilating into another culture was difficult. However, leaving Iraq was necessary to ensure I had a future, one that would allow me to learn, experience, and eventually become who I am today.

“Why have you decided to pursue this field?” A question that seems direct, however, can be daunting to simplify in two pages. My early exposure to a war-stricken environment led to a realization and eventually a passion for social justice. My culture has also enabled me to express patience and understanding to individuals of all backgrounds. Openness is the very ingredient which is expected of students attending [insert school/program]. I offer a distinct diversity in representing a small and underrepresented group of individuals; I speak Assyrian and Aramaic, an ancient language spoken in Mesopotamia. With a passion for linguistics, I have also become advanced in speaking Arabic and French. Diversifying my communication is a trait I can bring to this school, as it thrives in multiculturalism and offers multiple global/international opportunities. Moving forward I want to continue utilizing my personal experience and platform to advocate for families displaced, as I strive to be at the forefront of international affairs.

My university career, employment, and volunteer experiences have further fueled my passion for international relations. Additionally, they have enhanced my academic prowess, cultural awareness and critical thinking. The education I gained at X University, with a major in Criminology and minor in Political Science, provided me with an advanced knowledge of political relations. As a student, I gained research skills to analyze individual behavior and



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public policies. I analyzed criminal patterns from a theoretical and statistical standpoint. The analytical framework and organizational skills I gained are notable qualities that I can apply to my studies. During my entire university career, I remained employed and at times held two occupations. Additionally, I held an internship, played soccer, and remained active within my community by partaking in numerous charity events and associations, such as Transition 2 Betterness, Heart & Stroke, and Social Science Society. My internship at the Border Services Agency strengthened my regard for national security, while sports taught me discipline, effective communication, and team collaboration. Furthermore, my passion for music has led me to explore creativity with artists of all backgrounds. Having written multiple songs, and recorded with a variety of artists, I have challenged my writing abilities and allowed myself to be vulnerable and open to growth. My ability to balance employment, volunteer, academics, and music has characterized my motivation to improve myself as a student.

Alternatively, my career experiences have tested my creativity in utilizing various resources to achieve my end goal. In the 3 years I spent within the recruitment/consulting industry, I gained a professional outlook and got an insight into competitive markets. As a Scientific Recruiter, I worked alongside scientists/chemists and medical doctors, to ensure they found a suitable opportunity. Through technical screenings and developmental feedback, I was able to strategize and prepare the candidates for client interviews. As an Account Manager, I led the first Scientific Division for my company. I worked 60-hour weeks for two years to build a pipeline and plant the seeds for new business relationships. I partnered up with clients all over the country within various industries. Through extensive business development, I assisted clients by finding candidates that were technically and culturally a fit. My experience within sales was challenging, and at times exhausting, but taught me patience.

In my role as a War Child Catalyst for War Child and journalist for Observatory Media, I have gained cultural awareness in international relations and advanced my researching and writing abilities. As a War Child Catalyst, I created my own committee, One Army, which raises funds for families and children affected by war. As a journalist, I have furthered my knowledge of current Canadian policies and generated awareness for displaced individuals.

Upon my acceptance to your program, I hope to advance my critical thinking and awareness in international affairs and national security. I will also advance my focus through a _____ Diploma that is offered. With a variety of courses, such as _____, _____, and _____, I will adopt a dynamic perspective to direct my thesis. In addition, I hope to collaborate with _____ and _____, notable professors with substantive work in national security. With respect to campus involvement, I will see that my experiences will be utilized as I plan to join the _____, ensuring I will be at the forefront of political and social justice issues.