

### **Personal Statement**

Aristotle wrote that “At his best, man is the noblest of all animals; separated from law and justice he is the worst”. I believe this to be a central tenet of the way that society should be run. When there are rules, and importantly justice, in all areas, humanity can work together to ensure a safe, just, and honourable society. My own interest in law came from seeing injustices and arguments amongst different groups in my hometown, who needed recourse to legal proceedings, and I saw for myself how when the law is implemented appropriately and accurately, using precedent, positive ethics, and morality, that disputes could be resolved, and justice could be seen to be done.

Taking this interest further, during my final years at school, I became a student representative, liaising with parent-teacher groups and school governors to ensure that the voices of the students were being heard. From this experience, which involved advocating for less able students and improvement in their facilities, I believe strongly that the law can give a voice to individuals and groups, in an arena where there is knowledge and understanding of how best to implement and deliver judgements that are right and fair. From these initial understandings my interest in the legal profession has grown and led me to apply for the course at Durham University.

My choice of your institution and the Law LLB course is founded on the flexibility and wide-ranging nature of the three year course. In particular, that the first years covers a broad foundation of Law in both the UK and the European Union, before allowing students to progress to a specialism. At the same time, with the option to undertake three optional modules, allowing me to keep my specialism options open during the course. I also recognise the value of the course in preparing me for a Qualifying Law Degree which aligns with my longer term goals.

My aim is to qualify as a barrister so that I can represent those that need legal counsel, in the specific area of Law and Family Relationships. My rationale is that I believe there is a need for strong, ethical, and moral perspectives of judgement in family law cases, and I am of the viewpoint that this is an area in which I could excel.

At a personal level this focus on family law comes from recognising that where there are offences committed, there may often be a family background or other preceding factor that led to the offence, and this is something that interests me greatly. I consider myself to be someone who is

emotionally intelligent with a strong social conscience and am particularly interested in how the law is used family disputes, particularly after separation and how children are affected. I believe therefore that the modules offered at Durham will give me the foundation and springboard I need to follow this career pathway.

In addition, because I recognise that being an effective family law barrister means understanding a range of diverse family backgrounds, I have been volunteering at a youth centre for young offenders over the last few months, so that I might have a practical understanding of the potential issues faced. I feel strongly that it is important to develop a knowledge of practical case studies, and this work has enabled me to gain an initial foundation which I can use to build on during my degree journey.

Furthermore, I am a strong advocate of a healthy work-life balance and feel that the focus of Durham on encouraging community engagement, involvement in a range of societies and other non-academic pursuits will provide me with this. My feelings on reading the prospectus regarding the university, its ethos and its approach to learning and development and recognition of the need for global citizenship, intellectual and social growth are that the institution aligns with my own values. I believe therefore that I am a strong candidate for the Law LLB course and look forward to one day joining the Durham university Alumni.