

Personal Statement

My 24-year journey through life has been an exciting one. Very early in my life, I dismissed the notion that one can walk through life without being surprised or impressed by the vast and wonderful world that keeps us guessing. As a child, I loved to think and daydream. I adored Mathematics because it allows logic and creativity to rule supreme. I have found Mathematics to be like real life: dozens of ways to approach a problem, all equally correct, and yet few will experiment with more than one. As a result, I am described as an inquisitive and open-to-the-wisdom-of-others kind of a person.

I am a sportsman, and I relish cricket and football because they bring out the competitive nature in me. Sports have played a huge role in shaping my personality. Attributes like determination, agility of the mind and a never-say-die attitude originated solely from sports for me. Sports have encouraged me to constantly look for, and fill the 'room' for improvement.

I am also an avid book reader, Harry Potter being my first and one true love. In time, I came to enjoy reading as a means to learn about the human mind, since books are a product of human minds. My addiction with books has given me a better understanding of the world and its inhabitants.

I, encouraged by my parents, have always looked to push myself. Though I am wary of labelling myself a perfectionist, I consistently set higher standards for myself than people around me. It is a combination of all this, which has allowed me to stand where I am today.

I reached my first major milestone by scoring all A* and A Grades in my O'levels' exams, after which, I switched systems and joined Government College University, Lahore for Intermediate (Pre-Engineering). This, I believe, was my first eye-opener to life. The change was humungous, in terms of the methodology of teaching, examinations, and the general environment. It felt strange being called out by people as an 'outsider' and being told that I was 'set up to fail'. However, I endured through it, setting higher standards for myself than those being thrust upon me. And while I admit that I did not finish at the top, I secured enough marks to be proud of my mental endurance.

Next up, was the University of Engineering and Technology, which was a whole new

world. Our seniors warned us that it was either CGPA or 'having a life'. Again, however, I emerged proud of myself. I had a CGPA I was proud of. I had co-founded UET Science Society, been offered membership to MENSA Pakistan, voted Class Representative by my peers and nominated as 'The Most Likely to Succeed in Professional Life' by a panel of teachers and industrialists (as part of a university competition).

My internships have included stints at SAARC Energy Centre, National Transmission and Despatch Company and Engro Fertilizers. They were an informative mix of office and field experience that made my choice of Electrical Power as my elective during my Bachelors very easy.

And finally, I was offered a job as System Studies Engineer by Power Planners International (PPI) Private Limited based on my undergraduate research project (Impact Analysis of Integrating Renewable Energy in the National Grid). I joined on July 19, 2016 and am associated with them to date. My time with PPI has given me a detailed insight into the workings of the Power and Energy Sector of Pakistan. In addition to learning about the standard mechanism/SOP for evacuation of power, it has also allowed me to observe the problems faced by prospective power producers as well as the utilities.

I look to a Master's education with a determined eye. I believe my love for my country and the desire to contribute to its cause will be buoyed by a quality education from some of the best energy experts of the world. Renewable Energy has long fascinated me and I am proud to say that this childhood fascination has endured and is ready for harvesting. My career plans revolve around the energy planning sector of Pakistan, most particularly around the Alternative Energy Development Board, Pakistan which aims to encourage the dominance of clean, green energy across Pakistan. Like many countries around the globe, Pakistan is ready to depend on renewable energy as a solution to growing power demand.

I hope to be like Frodo Baggins, who set out to save his beloved Shire and ended up saving the world.