

### **Personal Statement**

Robert Swan wrote that “The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.” Personal responsibility is vital if we are to ensure our planet is safe for future generations. A famous quote, attributed to several sources is that “we do not inherit the earth, we borrow it from our children”. These words resonate deeply within me, as someone who grew up in a rural area, and has seen the destruction of ecosystems and the impact on our planet, but also more positively the impact of sustainable development programmes and initiatives on redressing the balance.

Growing in up in the aftermath of the millennium, it is not possible to be unaware of the importance of sustainable management, and work towards a more environmentally sound future that will preserve the world for generation. As I progressed through high school, I became more involved in understanding the importance of biodiversity and applying long term solutions to concerns about clean water and renewable energy sources. I joined several local groups working to clean up beaches and other areas and campaigned for reductions in carbon footprints at my school, through the adoption of smart technology, particularly lighting and the use of recycling throughout the school.

I now believe that my future lies in the field of sustainability so that I am well equipped to meet the future challenges of the planet. I also firmly believe that there should be an alliance between social justice and environmental management. This is because if individuals are given personal responsibility to support their own micro-environment economically, environmentally, and socially then I believe that this could have a ripple effect around the world. In this respect, I believe that the modules for the Sustainable Development (BSc) Hons will give me the theoretical and practical knowledge to work towards this goal. Combining this view with the need to understand the interplay of ecosystems for long term sustainability further enhances my desire to study this course. The modules which focus on climate change, environmental management, and politics, as well as sustainable technologies and the tools for sustainability and environmental change will, I believe enrich my existing knowledge to enable me to become a strong force in improving sustainability at a local and national level.

All of these factors have led to my decision to apply to St Andrews. In addition, in these current difficult times, following the outbreak of the covid-19 pandemic, the impact of lockdowns on natural sites, and the rebirth of many natural habits and growth in wildlife around the world has reinforced my personal desire to focus on sustainable development and to understand the most significant challenges

the earth and business require. It is for this reason that I wish to study at the University of St Andrews. Furthermore, the institution has a global reputation for excellence, not just for sustainability, but for academic achievement and research facilities which reaffirms the place as my first choice for studies. Furthermore, its location, close to the coast will enable me to see first-hand the impact of work to conserve the environment near to the university.

On a more personal note, I have a wide range of interests aside from my concerns about the environment and the future because I believe that academic focus needs to be balanced by the pursuit of other physical activities. As such I enjoy running, swimming, and walking which enables me to enjoy nature at its best. I also enjoy travel to remote locations to identify where work can be done to improve social injustice, for example I have travelled to Mexican villages where sustainable development projects have had a wide level of success. All of these pursuits, will, I believe support my studies and act as foundation for my future career goals of working for a sustainable development organisation.