

Personal Statement
International Student from Russia – Economics Major

Education and Career Goals*

Write a brief statement outlining your education and career goals; if undecided, state what you hope to gain from the college experience.

My major is Economics. May 2016 I am planning to graduate from MiraCosta with a Social Science AA and transfer to a university. My top three schools are Stanford University, Dartmouth College, and Brown University because they provide a very high level of economics programs and scholarships for International students. Overall in life, I desire to change the world's economic system. And when I am talking about this system, I don't refer to any particular country. I believe the system of every single country has flaws. The crisis of 2008 showed that even the most powerful countries in the world have an imperfect economic system, and I want to make my job about improving the world economic system because it would significantly increase the quality of the life in a lot of countries around the world.

My major is Economics, and my minor is Computer Science because I believe the IT Technologies are the way to make the Economic system more precise and productive. Computers can provide millions of decisions for a particular problem each second. That means that we just need to teach them to preemptively diagnose the next crash of our Economic system. And this is what I see myself doing after my graduation from a master's program in 4 years because I need to learn a lot more than I know now to develop and implement this type of program. Also, I believe that people are able to succeed in everything they do if they are working together. I want to transfer to the university to find individuals who are passionate about the same things I am to create a group of people who will change the global economic system in a significant way.

Extracurricular Activities*

List activities you are involved with both on and off campus; for example, clubs, organizations, volunteer service, and sports activities. If applicable, describe your employment experience and how many hours you work per week. Do your activities relate to your education or career objective?

I work at the MiraCosta College Library on the Oceanside campus as a circulation aid (17 hours per week)
I volunteer my time with ASG (Association of Students' Government) from 14 to 18 hours per week (as the Chair of the Inter-Club Counsel and a member of the Finance Committee). My time commitment for ASG by the end of March will be more than 250 hours. I would have been able to receive a Gold President Award, but I am not eligible because I am International Student.

I am a part of the NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Club on campus (as Public Relationships) and time depends on events. April is a very important month for NAMI, we are planning to organize at least one or two events every week at all three campuses of MiraCosta College.

Other Information about yourself*

Please provide information you would like to share about yourself including accomplishments you are proud of, hardships or challenges you overcame in your life, scholarships and/or honors you received. Most important, state your financial need and how a scholarship will help you achieve your education goal.

While I had planned to go to the University of Chicago after high school, the summer following my graduation my uncle passed away, and my grandmother required significant family support. I elected to put off my education for one year to support and care for her health and wellbeing. I moved from Moscow to Saratov, the city where she lives. I made this decision because, in my culture, children take care of their parents when they retire. During this year, I also worked full time as a means of saving for my education. I was working as a waitress, where I learned a lot of very useful skills, which you cannot learn at college, like reading people and developing a tough skin. Also, I was working as a web designer (online job). I chose to add this job because it was online, I was able to take care of my grandmother, while working online, and it gave me the significant experience of working in a field I intended to major in, once I started college. Also, I got a lot of amazing skills from this job such as how to pace my work, how to meet all my deadlines, and how to be an independent worker. I don't have any regrets because I spent significant time with my grandmother and I got a lot of useful life experience.

A few months after I started my education, the Russian currency significantly dropped. The American dollar became twice as expensive as it was before. It meant that all education fees for me became twice as expensive. Before I needed 600,000 rubles to pay for \$18,000 per year, now I need more than 1,134,000 rubles to pay the same \$18,000 annually. This year I started to work in the College Library for 17 hours with a salary, which is equal to minimum wage, because I cannot work outside the campus and find a job with a higher salary because of my visa requirements. That's why now instead of studying like most Americans three years in Community College, I cut one year by taking more units per semester. It's the only way how I can afford my education because my parents can't help me. Now I am taking 22 units (\$ 246 per unit = \$5,412 as an International student). It increases the cost per year but decreases the cost of my full education. Scholarship funds will help me to pay for my education, for my books, for housing, and for food. I appreciate the scholarship committee for taking my application into consideration and any scholarship would be most helpful, and I would be very grateful.