

UCAS Personal Statement

An accidental encounter and falling in too deep that I don't want to go back. These words best describe my discovery of, and journey to Biomedical Engineering thus far.

I was standing for what felt like hours by the door of an auditorium, assisting the audience and swinging the heavy doors after each speech. I was volunteering at a TEDx event, and during my shift as door duty, a lady was on stage talking about a new game that she had developed. In this game, players would navigate through a complex maze, interacting with different parts of it. My love for games kicked in and I listened intently. But, once she said that the maze was a model of the network of neurons in our brains, and that the individual players were helping the research of how our brains work, my love for games subsided and something else kicked in. I had been interested in medicine for a while, but it did not excite me as much as the thought of engineering the future of medicine. So, after searching, I found Biomedical Engineering.

Prosthetics, artificial organs and medical machines; I never gave them much thought but this encounter opened my eyes, and I took every opportunity to dig deeper into this subject. I wrote my physics Extended Essay based on Biomedical Engineering, focusing on the adaptability of prosthetic legs, and studying papers by Biomedical engineers such as Hugh Herr. From writing my paper, I was able to step through the entrance to Biomedical Engineering and found myself fascinated by the extent to which we have advanced our technology in this field. However, there was a limit to the experiments I could conduct, so I am craving to delve deeper within the facilities the university offers.

I also partook in a charity organisation with my classmates and we raised money and donated it to a real NPO called LIMBS International that provides prosthetic limbs to those in need in third world countries. I was in-charge of awareness and this forced me to look into the social aspect of Biomedical Engineering and the growing need for it. This was eye opening and I was able to discover some of the issues in Biomedical Engineering that still need to be addressed, such as the cost and biomimicry. So, I aspire to solve these issues.

The number of people that I personally know that are interested in Biomedical Engineering is close to zero. I have never been able to communicate about this specific topic and this is one of the reasons why I want to study Biomedical Engineering in university. There will be people with the same interests around me, and I would be able to talk to and work together with them. I enjoy team work and I believe that communication is one of my strong suits, as in high school, I was part of the IB student council. I have organised events, communicated to the entire student body and worked together with the other student council members, giving me an opportunity to hone my communication and leadership skills enough to leap into university life.

Although Biomedical Engineering is a growing industry, there are not a lot of courses for it here in Japan. There are a few institutes with courses that explore the basics of Engineering, but none that combines it with the human anatomy. After some searching, I found that some of the best undergraduate Biomedical Engineering institutes are in the United Kingdom, making me want to leave Japan to pursue my aspirations.

Until high school I had not even heard of Biomedical Engineering. But, my unexpected encounter kicked me forward and before I knew it, my school work and volunteering activity became highly centralised around this subject. Even my subject choices in IB reflect the basic preparation for this course. Now I am too deep into Biomedical Engineering that I can't go back, and in all honesty, I would not go back under any circumstances, this is my calling. In the not too distant future, I will be at TEDx presenting on my research, inspiring a new generation of Biomedical Engineering students.

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