

The following is the statement of my reasons for wishing to complete a Masters Degree in Social Work at this university. I will outline all the personal qualities and attributes that I have that make me a strong candidate for admission on to the Masters Degree in Social Work. Alongside my many personal qualities and attributes are my personal experiences and educational achievements, which further enhance my ability to complete the Social Work Masters program. I am applying for the Masters in Social Work to specialize in the provision of foster care for vulnerable children or those children that have been adversely affected by the break up of family relationships. For fulfilling this role and heartfelt ambition I will need to complete the Masters program in Social Work at your university. I want to attend your university as it represents in my opinion the best place to complete a high quality Masters program.

As I will outline below I believe that sympathy, empathy, compassion, and the respecting of diversity are key attributes for the completion of your Masters course and with much dedication and application from me will subsequently lead to a successful career as a Social Worker. My main overriding concern is that being a qualified Social Worker will enable me to help other people. That is, as will be explained below is a highly important motivating factor for me, and has greatly influenced my decision to apply for a place on your Social Work Masters course. I believe that completing your Social Work successfully will allow me to help others as well as shaping my own future for the better.

As I have already mentioned I was drawn to the study of Social Work as a result of personal experiences and my individual circumstances. My own life and experiences have taught me to respect diversity and to try and teach other people the value of respecting diversity themselves through the example of how I live my life and how I behave. Respecting and actively promoting diversity is not only an essential element for my ability to join and complete your course, it will enable me to be a better Social Worker after I have graduated from your course. I would also try

to promote the welfare and well being of both families and individuals once I had completed your course and could your sound teaching and advice into practice.

I strongly believe that I treat everybody with the same amount of respect that I would like to receive from other people. I believe everybody irrespective of gender, age, ethnicity, disabilities, or sexual orientation deserves respect. Although I am white I believe that does not stop me from forming positive relationships with African-Americans, Native Americans, Asian- Americans, and Hispanics. If I gain a place on your course I will show everybody that I live by my beliefs with regards to being tolerant of diversity, and, by being helpful when required by the way I would interact with my fellow classmates. At the moment I am an Intern and study and work with people from many different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. The majority of present classmates are women whilst I am the only white amongst the men on the same course. At your university I would happily carry on mixing with and working with people from equally diverse backgrounds. That would after all stand me in good stead for my professional career as a Social Worker.

My desire to respect and promote diversity is partially caused by my own circumstances.

Although I do not physically appear disabled, I am considered disabled by the criteria used by the government to measure disability. Therefore I have not found it as easy to achieve academically as some of my classmates. I have probably had to work harder to achieve what I have done so far in life yet that very struggle means that I have a great deal of sympathy and empathy towards other people and their problems. Perhaps if I had not been disabled I would not have developed those attributes so strongly. I also understand the value of a good education and been given opportunities to make something out of life despite my disabilities. Some people are not as lucky as I have been in been given opportunities to improve their lives. Often children need somebody to encourage, coach, and advise them in life when things are difficult for them,

or even just to care them whilst they experience the pains of growing up. As a Social Worker I would be there for the children that needed someone to care about them in general, and I would be there for foster children in particular. Social work would also be about advising and supporting foster parents. I believe that I could empathize and sympathize with foster parents, from the perspective that I am a parent and understand issues relating to the bringing up of children. For Social Workers, foster parents are an invaluable asset when it comes to meet the need to help and protect vulnerable children.

Completing your course would allow me the chance to get out there to help other people that need help more than I did. Another influence that made me wishes to help others and respect diversity is my experiences of being overseas. I have seen the terrible consequence of poverty and neglect, making me realises just how lucky the majority of us are in this country. Poverty and ill health mean that many children in these countries either do not have parents to look after them or their parents have absolutely to look after them with.

The United States may lack the high level of poverty that I have seen overseas but that does not mean that our society lacks people that need financial, emotional, or physical support. However prejudices hamper and badly affect many lives in this country, possibly more people than are affected by poverty, poor education, or a lack of realist opportunity to make something fulfilling or rewarding out of their lives. Poverty and prejudices are I believe strongly linked, both are features of our society that can lead to the destruction of families, individuals, and weaken our sense of community and also of our well being. Social Workers can play an important part in countering poverty and prejudices whilst trying to maintain family units and keep individuals as part of our community.

My desire to help other people has also increased since I became a parent three years ago. I believe that I used to understand the importance of family life for the health and prosperity or otherwise of our community yet having a daughter of my own has given me further insights into the subject. I have been grateful for many of the things that I have had in my life, such as the experience of having a good education. I would like my daughter and all other children to receive a good education as well to allow them to make the most of their potential to be useful, productive, and deeply caring adults. I believe that as a Social Worker I will help many children to overcome difficulties such as broken homes, prejudices, and lack of education to rebuild and improve their lives. Children are literally our future, by giving me a place on your course I believe that my future is guiding them towards a brighter future. The children I would like to help the most are children that are in foster care. I believe that such children are in greater need of my help than neither children whose parents have not split up are nor have enough resources and patience to look after them properly.