

Sample UCAS Personal Statement: BSc Economics

Fictional Indian applicant (ISC, Class 12), written in the three-question format. A style reference: never copy sentences.

1. Why do you want to study this course or subject?

Economics became real for me during a school project on our local fish market in Kochi, where I traced why prices moved between 6 am and 9 am and found auction structure, storage costs and information gaps doing the work I had assumed was random. That project turned news into questions I could frame: why fuel taxes ripple through vegetable prices, why some subsidies reach people and others leak. I want to study economics because it offers tools, models, data and careful reasoning, for questions I already cannot stop asking, and because the version of those tools taught at degree level is what separates opinion from analysis.

2. How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

I study Economics, Mathematics, Accounts and English under ISC. Mathematics is where I have built the muscles a serious economics degree assumes: functions, calculus and statistics stopped being abstract once I used them to fit a demand curve to my fish-market data. In economics classes I learned to write short, structured arguments where every claim needs a diagram or a number behind it, and my project on price movements earned the year's top score for using primary data. Accounts taught me how firms actually record the decisions economists theorise about, which keeps my thinking anchored in how businesses behave rather than how models wish they would.

3. What else have you done outside of education to prepare, and why are these experiences useful?

I write a small monthly newsletter for my school explaining one economic idea through one Indian example, from surge pricing to onion inflation, and holding sixty readers' attention has taught me to explain without jargon. I volunteered with a self-help group's bookkeeping drive, where I saw credit constraints as ledger entries rather than textbook phrases. I also taught myself basic spreadsheet analysis to run the numbers behind my newsletter pieces. These experiences are useful because economics at university is reading, writing and data in a loop, and I have already built a small version of that loop and kept it running for a year.