



Sample Personal Statement: Architecture

A trip to Warsaw during my junior high years changed my entire outlook on my life. As a citizen of Taiwan who had never left my country, I knew virtually nothing of the city or its history; I was simply going along on a trip that my parents had planned. Stepping out of the taxi in the city's historic Old Town, I stared in awe for what felt like several minutes. The urban landscape that surrounded me looked like something from a fairytale, or from a postcard. Medieval churches and quaint shops mixed with architecture from every century. Never before had I been so entranced, so *moved* by the buildings around me. This was the start of my love for architecture.

Since my Warsaw trip, I have been fortunate to visit London, Tokyo, and Shanghai, as well as visiting many architectural sites around my native country of Taiwan, albeit with an entirely new appreciation. In my free time, I have been taking online classes related to architecture, learning the basics of software and the history of architecture, as well as subscribing to *Architectural Digest*. I am thrilled to have found something that interests me so much, but I am frustrated at my lack of in-depth knowledge and the technical skills needed to begin a career in architecture. This is my motivation for pursuing formal university studies of architecture in the UK.

I have chosen the UK because of its unique combination of academic quality and architectural beauty. When I visited London with on a family trip a few years back, I was overwhelmingly drawn to the beauty, the history, and the sophistication of the surroundings there. In my university studies, I aspire to gain a better understanding of how to balance the practical and creative aspects of architecture and design, how to utilize spaces in innovative ways, and how to actually improve people's lives and surroundings through architecture. From my travels, I have seen the profound impact that architecture can have on people's lives. Conversely, I have seen that the overwhelmingly drab architecture in many of Taiwan's cities ends up detracting from the potential value of these cities to the people who live in them.

Although I grew up in Taiwan, I am fluent in English as well as Chinese, as I attended bilingual programs throughout my schooling. I am thus very fortunate to have the language skills needed to attend school in the UK. Moreover, my high school program had a strong focus on the arts. I am accordingly proficient at the basics of illustration and design software, and I have considerable experience working on design, sketching, and multimedia projects. This gives me a solid foundation for more advanced studies focusing on architecture, design, AutoCAD, and related areas.

For years now, I have had my sights set on studying architecture in the UK. I am very lucky to have my parents' support in this endeavor, and I am ready to work hard and challenge myself as a student of architecture. In the future, my goal is to help shape the skylines that people call home, whether designing towering skyscrapers or quaint homes. Through architecture, I can make my mark on the world, both literally and figuratively, and I can think of nothing that could be more meaningful.