



UCAS Personal Statement: Computer Science

You're going to get sucked into that thing! I can still hear my dad scolding me when I was younger, as I stared intently into the flickering screen of a computer for hours on end. He was more correct in his assessment than he could have imagined.

I have chosen to study Computer Science in the university, as I am simply obsessed with this field. It is hard for me to imagine an age before computers, so ubiquitous were these machines throughout my life. Just as human beings learned to fashion tools and bend nature to their will, advancements in computers will enable us to become, in essence, post-human, digital beings. This is accomplished through programming, through machine-learning, through artificial intelligence and increasingly sophisticated algorithms. For my university education and long-term career, this is precisely what interests me.

Given my love for computers, it has long been a foregone conclusion that I would pursue higher education and eventually a career in computer science or a related field. In preparation for doing so, I have taken numerous A-level courses on maths and computing, including Algebra, Calculus, Fundamentals of Computing Science, and Theory of Computation. I have expanded beyond this in my free time, taking the online classes Operating Systems, Systems and Architecture, Data Structures, and Algorithms. My free time, too, is concerned mostly with computers, from team and solo gaming, to building hobby computers in my house, to constantly reading online and print computing magazines.

Given my high degree of motivation to learn about computing, I have very high standards and expectations for the next stage of my education. Consequently, I am focused on getting into the most advanced and reputable program of computer science that I can find. The chance to study alongside similarly motivated students, working on computing projects and research day in and day out, will be exhilarating. It is all I have been dreaming of for the past several years. After university, I plan to continue on to postgraduate study and research, where my goal will be to stay at the front edge of the computing world while working to push the boundaries of the frontier further into the future.

When I one day look back on my life, I presume that I will hear echoes of my parents' admonishments. *You're going to get sucked into that thing!* Hunched over a keyboard morning to night, face lit by the glow of the screen, peering into the infinite possibilities just waiting on the other side of that screen—this is a future that makes me giddy with excitement. So, too, does the prospect of studying Computer Science at the university level, as I view this as a first and crucial step on the path that I envision for myself.