

Dear Mr. Ajay and Mrs. Antonia Sood,

It has already been an exhilarating first few weeks here at LSE. My days have been full of lectures and clubs, while my evenings are spent socializing and studying. Saturday is my glorious day of relaxation and a consistently sneaky economics quiz, and Sunday is Rugby and rest. A different experience and a new world is what I hoped for when I applied to LSE, and they have delivered in full, and then some.

I also applied because Mathematics is a passion of mine. LSE has one of the world's most highly regarded Mathematics and Statistics Departments, and is one of the best at teaching Actuarial Science. That to me meant that when I ticked it as my first choice on UCAS, I was going to get the best of the best.

I gambled with life when I ticked that box though. Universities whose reputation and quality are so high that they are identified more often by their acronym than by their full name often come with a price tag. I knew my background would have never allowed me to match that tag. A boy who was raised by single parents for much of his life, and his aged grandmother for the rest. The three women who raised me were the hardest workers I have ever known, they gave their all into raising me, yet we still just barely made it to the finish line. My life can best be described as passing in waves. Waves of extreme poverty, affluence and lower class living. Through those waves (and at times because of them) I developed my personality. Someone who loved music and video games, someone who made a few too many jokes at times, someone who was too quiet sometimes, someone who worked hard, someone who respected and loved those he considered family and someone who respected his community. The other parts of me are because of what my mentors and parental figures have taught me over the years, which is to use my talent to help people, somehow, and more importantly to enjoy helping people.

That is why the scholarship is so helpful. The Beacon Equity Trust also understands the importance of helping people. They do this by giving me the tools I need to help people, along with showing me why I should help. What use are a skilled pair of hands without the right tools? My education here at LSE is a tool. One I can use later to do a little good out there, make a little progress in society. It also helps me stabilize those waves, smooth them out. Not just for myself, but for others back home too. I previously did not have much in the way of a future aim, but this scholarship has given me one, and I am happy for that.

Thank you to LSE, for I know the way my scholarship is set up is slightly unconventional. Thank you to the Beacon Equity Trust. It is an honour to have this opportunity, and to be part of the family.

Regards,


Darryl Ursh