

I wish to study physics because physics, more than any other academic subject, nourishes me academically, emotionally, and spiritually. Indeed, physics is my true calling in life: every time I solve a vexing physics problem, I feel an instant adrenaline rush.

No wonder my future career ambition is to be part of a team of theoretical physicists, exploring the night sky, attempting to unlock all of its magnificent mysteries. I know this work will not be easy: at times, the night sky appears as complex as a paradigmatic labyrinth designed by Daedalus. But, before I can properly contemplate performing such work, I first need to acquire the skills that only a university degree in physics can provide. And, having recently returned to Europe, after having mostly been taught in English, England is the obvious choice for where I should continue my studies.

My desire to study physics can be traced back to the day I received my first telescope. With it, I studied the various phases of the moon, becoming immediately intrigued with the moon's foreign, crater-laden far ("dark") side. Which makes sense: from the moment I learned how to overcome my fear of the dark by, paradoxically, embracing it, I have been intrigued with the darker, unknown elements of my world.

During this time, I had, at best, a rudimentary knowledge of the scientists who explored the deepest mysteries of the universe. Later, as my knowledge grew, I learned about the enormous contributions to theoretical physics made by such individuals as Brian Greene, Werner Heisenberg, and Richard Feynman, who dedicated their entire professional careers to solving the most pressing mysteries of the night sky. Their dedication has inspired me to want to follow in their lead.

Meanwhile, at school, I explored physical motion by attaching objects—of varying weights—onto a string—at varying angles—recording their respective speeds. Around this time, I also joined an after-school model airplane club, learning how to efficiently convert the kinetic energy of moving air into mechanical energy.

At this point, my interest in physics continued to evolve—both inside and outside of school. Last year, however, proved pivotal in my decision to become a theoretical physicist. At the start of the year, I joined my school's physics club, where, each week, club members were presented with an intricate physics question we had to work together to solve.

I also helped lead a team of ten individuals, taking part in N.O.V.E's parabola project competition. As part of the competition, our team had to submit a detailed description of a series of experiments we wanted to perform in microgravity. I proposed studying the effects of microgravity on the trajectory of a stream of water propelled through a syringe.

I also enjoyed the camaraderie, working together with my fellow budding physicists, in solving these vexing physics questions.

All of these invaluable experiences required the use of a computer. I worried about those students who could not afford to purchase a computer. So, last year, I helped start an organization, named Flash, which collects and distributes donated computers to such underserved students.

But, there is another, much more personal, reason why I want to study the night sky. As a child, I was terrified of the dark, so much so that, at night, I would never leave my bed, even to use the restroom. One evening, my grandmother sat me on a bench, out in her backyard garden in France. She pointed up at the night sky, explaining, as a young girl, she used to sit on this same bench, with her grandfather, as had her ancestors, peering up into the same dark sky, not in fear, but, in awe. From that moment on, I stopped fearing the unknown, and started to embrace it.

All of these experiences, when added to my demonstrated academic prowess in mathematics and physics, have helped strengthen my resolve, next year, to matriculate in a demanding physics course of study at the university level.