

My interest in philosophy began as a child when I visited a planetarium with my parents. Though I could not articulate my feelings at the time, the experience left me both terrified and excited. As I grew older, I found myself increasingly drawn to questions about the infinite nature of the universe, the finite nature of human existence, and the meaning of life. What are the limits of knowledge? What can we do with questions beyond our knowledge that we still feel compelled to ask? Immanuel Kant's writings about the possibility of synthetic a priori judgements and his thoughts about how the human mind is not passively receiving information sparked my curiosity and motivated me to study philosophy.

Philosophy to me is a dynamic field that not only reflects the world around us but also shapes it. It is concerned with questions that underpin our everyday lives: how we can make sense of the world, can make life worth living, and can deepen our understanding of morality. Reading Nietzsche along with Kant was a breakthrough for me and made me view philosophy as an ever-evolving conversation. I see philosophy as inherently connected to other fields in humanities, which makes learning it on an academic level even more appealing to me. My reading experiences involving texts by Kant, Dostoevsky, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche have driven me to expand my interests even more. Kant's fourth question-"What is man?"-is particularly compelling to me. Kierkegaard has shown fascinating insights to this question. In *Fear and Trembling*, he explores the paradoxical nature of faith and presents three problems in connection to Abraham's story from Genesis 22. I found the first problem, the 'teleological suspension of the ethical,' the most interesting, where faith can demand actions that defy rational moral principles. I read a collection of essays on the book (Kierkegaard's *Fear and Trembling*, ed. Daniel Conway, Cambridge UP 2014), in which C. S. Evans focuses on the first problem concerning the moral conflict, arguing that it is possible to condemn child sacrifice while admiring the Abraham Kierkegaard described. Dostoevsky's novels, especially *The Brothers Karamazov* have made a great impact on me. He mastered the polyphonic novel, where multiple characters possess distinct, independent perspectives, each expressing their worldview without being overshadowed by the author's voice.

In high school, I study History and Literature at a higher level. In 2024, I was admitted to the Milestone Institute, an English-language programme for advanced studies, where I have improved my academic writing skills and deepened my knowledge in philosophy. I also joined the History and Debate Societies there. I attended a conference at the Eötvös Loránd University, organised by the Philosophy Circle, where I listened to multiple presentations. I found the one about the comparison of Hobbes' and Rousseau's contract theory especially intriguing. I wrote an essay for the John Locke essay competition, which focused on the potentially self-destructive nature of democracy, drawing on Plato's criticisms of democracy and the challenges it faces today, and after my essay was shortlisted, I was invited to a series of lectures. I presented my research and ideas about God's existence and religion's place in modern society at the Galileo Night Student Conference at Milestone Institute.

Studying in the UK appeals to me because of its rich philosophical tradition, high-quality education, and multicultural environment. I am eager to continue exploring the history of human thought through the study of philosophy, which I believe will further improve my analytical skills and help me understand questions only philosophy can grapple with. I hope to contribute meaningfully to academic discourse with the hope of giving something valuable to the world. It would be an incredible experience to immerse myself in the works of philosophers and to discuss ideas with professors and fellow students.