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Type: Motivation letter

Degree: Master

Major: Medicine

University: Oxford University

I have always been interested in the nature of living things. Illnesses that befell my family members and some friends taught me that health is one of the most important things in life. Yet, most people get sick throughout their lives, and I have always seen being able to help find a cure for illnesses as a good purpose in life.

At one of the top ten schools in Moscow, I was provided with good education and had a biology teacher whose passion about her subject ignited my interest in it. She always ensured to teach us in depth all relevant theories and to think independently instead of relying solely on the textbook.

Furthering my studies in one of the two best medical universities in Russia gave me a clear view of the human organism: the way it functions in norm and in pathology. I also saw the breadth and depth of issues yet unknown or underexplored by science.

Through two nursing internships in Moscow, I was able to better understand the inner workings of a hospital, including the conditions and the atmosphere that patients have to endure and their reactions to drugs. Now I fully understand what working with a patient entails. Volunteering for the 24-hour duty on several occasions, I have learned how to think fast and remain calm in unexpected situations.

My primary interest lies in the research on disease mechanisms and development of effective medications. Therefore, after completing my undergraduate degree, I plan to further my studies in the areas of pharmacology and neuroscience. I am particularly interested in

developing drugs for patients with polyetiologic mental diseases. This requires joint efforts of specialists in different areas, and I aim to participate in such international-level research. I am strongly motivated to succeed in this area.

In many courses, I had to examine and diagnose patients and prescribe drugs, learning clinical thinking. I believe this skill is important not only for doctors who prescribe drugs but also for scientists who develop them. I also learned that ultimately, the decision to take the prescribed medicine is made by the patients, so it is important to be aware of their prejudices and opinions regarding medications.

My current university gave me a strong theoretical and practical foundation for further studies, but starting from the fourth year of studies the focus shifted away from theory and research. I could resume studies in the area of my interest upon graduating, but the type of research I aim to participate in requires an internationally recognized diploma, which my university is unable to provide at the moment.

I chose Great Britain for my studies because it has a long-standing and widely recognized tradition of higher education and good opportunities for medical science research. I visited it previously, and liked its student-friendly and multicultural atmosphere.

From the programme, I hope to gain a deeper understanding of physiological processes in human body and nervous system in particular, of pharmacological mechanisms and repercussions on all levels in the organism, as well as to become more aware of less understood phenomena.

I also want to gain experience and skills necessary for gathering and interpreting raw experimental and laboratory data from neurological and pharmacological research as well as analytical skills that allow constructing robust scientific theories. As well, I hope to enhance my team-working skills and understanding of professional ethics.