

Personal Statement for University Example

The first time I translated a contract from French to English for my uncle's car import business, I had no idea I was developing a life skill.

He handed me the document because Google Translate had mangled the grammar. I didn't speak perfect French, but I'd been picking it up through years of bilingual school and obsession with French detective series. What started as a family favor quickly became a hobby, and then a freelance job.

I now spend weekends helping small immigrant-owned businesses in our neighborhood decode bureaucracy: lease agreements, licensing forms, supplier emails. Sometimes I explain what a line means in plain English. Other times, I help them write their own replies. It's a strange but powerful role: part translator, part navigator, part unofficial hype person.

This experience sparked my interest in studying international business and legal studies at university. But more than that, it opened my eyes to the real power of language, not just for communication, but for survival. A single misunderstood clause could cost a vendor their stall. A missing signature could delay months of shipments. These aren't just words on paper, they're livelihoods.

At school, I combined this passion with leadership. I helped form a Cultural Advocacy Committee, where we worked to demystify admin procedures for students with immigrant



backgrounds. I also led a peer tutoring program focused on multilingual support for first-year students struggling with English-language assignments. These weren't massive programs—but they mattered to someone.

What I'm looking for in a university is depth. I want a place that lets me dive into global business strategy *and* hands me the tools to understand international law. Somewhere I can improve my French and maybe pick up a third language. A university that prepares me not just for boardrooms, but for bridges between communities, between cultures.

Long-term, I hope to work at the intersection of trade and human rights to help design policies that don't just boost economies, but protect the people in them. It sounds ambitious. It is. But I'm ready to start.

Because it all began with one confusing document and a little trust. And I plan to honor that trust, one translation at a time.