



democratising access to higher education

Workshop on Chevening Scholarship Essays
2 October 2022



Outline

- About Project EduAccess
- Meet your Panelists
- Essays overview
- Leadership essay
- Networking essay
- Why UK/Course choices essay
- Career plans essay
- Questions?



Project EduAccess

Access to higher education is a privilege most people from marginalised communities are systematically denied through cost, information and dispositional barriers.

Project EduAccess is a modest attempt to improve inclusivity in HEIs by removing these barriers for marginalized communities in South Asia.

We hope to achieve this by providing expert mentorship, support and guidance to learners in South Asia.

Meet your panelists



Piyali Chatterjee

MSc. Evidence-based Social
Intervention & Policy Evaluation

Chevening Scholar 2020-21

University of Oxford



Sumaiya Muslim

MSc Urban strategies and Design

Chevening Scholar 2022-23

University of Edinburgh

Essays – Overview

Four themes of
Chevening essays

1

Leadership

2

Networking

3

Why UK/ Choice of courses

4

Career plans



Leadership

“Chevening is looking for individuals who will be future leaders or influencers in their home countries. Explain how you meet this requirement, using clear examples of your own leadership and influencing skills to support your answer.”

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

- First essay- use it for context setting
- Make a mind map – select two or three main examples where you:
 - Worked either alone or with others to achieve something positive (individual contribution should be clear).
 - Shaped the opinions and actions of people around you (avoid broad generalisations/ exaggerations)
 - What did this leadership experience teach you? (key takeaway)



Leadership

STRUCTURE OF THE ESSAY

- Avoid using quotes and definitions of leadership
- Start your essay with the strongest example (follow chronology)
- Use **CAR** or **STAR** Approach (mention specifics such as year, project, position; set context but make it crisp)
- Use numbers wherever possible (Quantify impact)
- Showcase passion, motivation & growth (Keep it simple and conversational)



Networking

“Chevening is looking for individuals with strong professional relationship-building skills, who will engage with the Chevening community and influence and lead others in their chosen profession. Please explain how you build and maintain relationships in a professional capacity, using clear examples of how you currently do this, and outline how you hope to use these skills in the future.”

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

- Does not involve meeting people only (or doesn't mean that you have to be an extrovert)
- What happens after you build networks - how do you use them for the benefit of others, or to spread the message about your work
- How do you connect the dots? (Use previous networks to advance your goals or maximise social impact)



Networking

STRUCTURE OF THE ESSAY

- Use *CAR* or *STAR* Approach
- Use key examples of networks, describing unique and diverse ways of maintaining networks and how you facilitate networking (Give examples – don't just narrate)
- How these relationships would help you or your clients in the future
- How you wish to network in the UK/Chevening Cohort



Why UK/Choice of courses

“Outline why you have selected your chosen three university courses, and explain how this relates to your previous academic or professional experience and your plans for the future. Please do not duplicate the information you have entered on the work experience and education section of this form”

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

- **Ability:** Choose courses you can manage the academic workload and specific requirements for.
- **Qualifications:** Check university's individual academic merits/requirements.
- **Career Plans:** The masters programme you choose should be in line with your career path



Why UK/Choice of courses

STRUCTURE OF THE ESSAY

Introductory Paragraph

- The problem or motivation towards pursuing the said course.
- Statistics/Data to make your case Stronger.
- Basic introduction to your course/field of study. (Basically answer why you have chosen this course)

Continuing Paragraph/s

- List down three course choices that you want to pursue, they could be courses in three different universities or three courses in the same. Be mindful with your choices. (Ask questions here)

Concluding Paragraph

- Conclusion of your essay and small explanation of course choice, choice to Study in UK in general and Chevening importance (again)



Career plans

“Chevening is looking for individuals who have a clear post-study career plan. Please outline your immediate plans upon returning home and your longer term career goals. You may wish to consider how these relate to what the UK government is doing in your country.”

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

- **Be Realistic:** Make sure that the career plans you are writing are practically achievable in the said period of time, they can be as ambitious as you wish (nothing is impossible), but be realistic.
- Don't be **Self-serving**.



Career plans

STRUCTURE OF THE ESSAY

Introductory Paragraph

- Start with an introductory Paragraph and add Statistics/Data to make your case Stronger.
- How your career path would benefit your country and Demonstrate that you have a clear and defined career plan.

Continuing Paragraph/s

- Write down your short-term career plan (soon after completing your study), middle-term career plan and long-term career plans
- In each you should mention the organizations you plan to work for/ or you plan to start, their objectives, your role/title and how the skills and training received will facilitate that.
- How FCDOs ongoing projects in your country aligns with your career path at large and how it would benefit both nations at large.

Concluding Paragraph

- It is important that your community or country and Chevening Community should be the focal point where your career plan should revolve. You will be representing your country as a Chevening scholar.



Stay Connected

www.projecteduaccess.com

projecteduaccess@gmail.com

Other ways to get in touch

