APPLICATION STATEMENT EXAMPLE

Application for the MSc Sustainable Water Management at the University of Glasgow

A sample personal statement showing how to connect lived experience, academic preparation, programme fit, and future impact.

When the borehole was completed, I watched with pride as men, women, and children celebrated the arrival of clean water. Years later, I returned to the village and found the pump broken, spare parts unavailable, funds exhausted, and water quality no longer monitored. Poor management had left the community struggling for water again. The experience changed how I understood my work. I realised that building a borehole could bring immediate relief, but ensuring lasting access to safe water required much more: effective maintenance, reliable monitoring, sustainable funding, and responsible management. I want to acquire the knowledge and skills to help address these challenges. This is why I am applying for the MSc Sustainable Water Management at the University of Glasgow.

My interest in sustainable water management is rooted in my background in Garissa County, Kenya, where reliable access to water is essential to community well-being and livelihoods. My Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science gave me a foundation for understanding environmental challenges and the relationship between natural resources and human development. I wanted to apply this knowledge to practical problems, and my work with Pugani, an association involved in constructing solar-powered boreholes, gave me that opportunity.

As a borehole-building supervisor, I supervised the construction of approximately one borehole every three months over a period of two years. This experience exposed me to the practical work involved in developing water infrastructure and strengthened my appreciation of the difference such projects can make to communities. It also helped me understand that the completion of a borehole is only one stage in providing a reliable water supply. The long-term value of the infrastructure depends on whether it continues to function, whether water quality is monitored, and whether suitable arrangements exist for maintenance and management.

The experience of seeing a once-useful water source fall into disrepair reinforced my desire to develop expertise beyond construction supervision. I want to understand how water resources can be assessed, monitored, and managed more effectively, particularly in dry regions where communities depend heavily on reliable water supplies. I also want to learn how technical evidence can guide decisions about water infrastructure, helping organisations and communities identify risks and plan for long-term sustainability. These are skills I now need to complement my academic background and practical experience.

The MSc Sustainable Water Management at the University of Glasgow offers a valuable opportunity to develop this expertise. I am particularly interested in the programme's focus on monitoring water environments, geographical information systems (GIS), remote sensing, environmental analysis, modelling, and water-management policy and practice. Training in environmental monitoring and analysis would strengthen my ability to understand water-related data and assess environmental conditions. GIS and remote sensing could help me examine the spatial distribution of water resources and support more informed planning. Learning about modelling and water-management policy would help me understand how scientific evidence can inform decisions about the development, operation, and long-term management of water

systems.

I am also attracted to the programme's practical field training and independent research project. I would welcome the opportunity to investigate questions related to sustainable water management in dry regions, particularly the monitoring and long-term reliability of community water infrastructure. Through this training, I hope to develop the ability to examine water-management challenges systematically, evaluate possible solutions, and apply evidence to practical decisions. The programme would allow me to connect what I have learned through supervising borehole construction with more advanced scientific and management approaches.

After completing my master's degree, I intend to return to Kenya and apply my knowledge to water-management challenges in Garissa County and other communities facing similar conditions. My initial goal is to contribute to the monitoring and maintenance of community water infrastructure by working with relevant development organisations, local authorities, and community partners. I hope to support more systematic recording of borehole locations, operational conditions, breakdowns, maintenance needs, and available water-quality results. With appropriate cooperation and resources, such information could help identify recurring problems, improve maintenance planning, and support better decisions about where technical assistance and funding are most needed.

In the longer term, I want to grow into a water-management specialist who can contribute to the planning, assessment, and sustainable management of water projects in Kenya's dry regions. I also hope to share my knowledge with colleagues and local project teams, helping strengthen the capacity of those responsible for maintaining water infrastructure. I recognise that sustainable water access cannot be achieved through technical knowledge alone; it also requires funding, community participation, effective institutions, and continued cooperation. My ambition is to contribute to this wider effort by bringing stronger analytical skills and a more informed approach to the work I already understand from experience.

Receiving a scholarship would give me the opportunity to pursue this advanced training and prepare for greater responsibility in the water sector. I would regard it not simply as support for my personal education, but as an investment in my ability to make a meaningful contribution to communities facing water challenges. My undergraduate education has provided an academic foundation, and my two years of experience supervising borehole construction have shown me both the value of water infrastructure and the difficulties of sustaining its benefits. I now want to build on these experiences with the advanced knowledge and skills that graduate study can provide.

I am applying to the University of Glasgow because I want my education to lead to practical, lasting contributions when I return to Kenya. My goal is not simply to help build more boreholes, but to contribute to water systems that are properly monitored, effectively managed, and more likely to serve communities over time. I hope to help communities in Garissa County move beyond the temporary relief of newly constructed water sources towards more reliable and sustainable access to water. With the right training, professional partnerships, and commitment, I believe I can make a valuable contribution to that goal.

What Makes This Example Effective?

The statement follows a clear order that helps the scholarship panel understand the applicant's journey, motivation, and future plans.

- **Introduction:** Explains how a broken borehole inspired his interest in sustainable water management.
- **Academic background:** Shows his relevant training in Environmental Science.

- **Work experience:** Demonstrates two years of practical borehole construction experience.
- **Programme choice:** Connects the course to his skills development needs.
- **Future goals:** Explains how he hopes to improve water management in Kenya.
- **Conclusion:** Shows how the scholarship supports his goals and benefits communities.

The main strength of this example
It connects the applicant's past experience, the skills he wants to acquire, and what he hopes to contribute after graduation. It gives the scholarship panel a reason to see the degree not only as an opportunity for the applicant, but also as a potential investment in the communities he hopes to serve.

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