An example of a high quality personal statement

The example below is of a high quality personal statement from an imaginary applicant applying for the secondary PGCE.

Reflecting on my educational experiences, I appreciate the immeasurable impact that teachers make on the lives of young people. I also realise that the skills and knowledge acquired in the classroom, will be used by young people throughout life. Therefore, as a teacher, I hope to be a role model that cultivates in young people, open minds, the knowledge and ability to look at the world critically, and the belief in ones capacity to make positive contributions to society. With this goal in mind, I am applying for admission into the PGCE in Citizenship programme.

I believe that the knowledge I acquired whilst working towards an MSc in Development Studies at significantly overlaps with the National Curriculum for Citizenship. The course dealt extensively with democratic participation and institutions and examined how various forms of citizen action gave rise to new social, political and economic rights. Informed civic engagement and the arts are major areas of interest to me and as a result, I chose to explore them further in my MSc dissertation. I believe that my current understanding and interest of the issues covered by the curriculum form a solid foundation for which I can build the skills and knowledge specific to teaching Citizenship.

Over the past two years, I have worked with young people as a teacher and youth worker. In rural community schools in Brazil, I planned, prepared and delivered educational activities that engaged students in debate and general awareness raising about the broader global environment. For example, whilst at the Instituto Cultural Brasil Estados Unidos, I ran a series of debate workshops on controversial topics such as animal rights and poverty for students aged 12 to 22. At present, I am working with schools and community groups as an Education and Youth Worker at The Vauxhall City Farm delivering activities on the environment and sustainability. I enjoy working with and learning from young people, and I am committed to making meaningful contributions to their growth. To gain further insight into the specifics of teaching in the UK at a secondary level, I plan to observe several Citizenship lessons in a Lambeth county school at the end of March.

My experience working in varied environments has enabled me to develop a range of practical skills. I am able to manage challenging behavior effectively, conduct activities safely and communicate with people from diverse backgrounds. Further, I am very creative and enjoy sourcing materials that make learning interesting. Most importantly, my ability to work well with others, motivate and inspire is a very significant contribution that I am confident I can bring to the course and into the classroom.