



Sample Personal Statement for Graduate School

I started researching about learning disorders in children when my younger brother Arun was diagnosed with dyslexia. It was a difficult time for my parents because they had to cope with the fact that Arun would be a little different from children his age. I remember my brother being frustrated and upset because he couldn't read his favourite books but I was always ready to lend a helping hand. During his secondary education, he received support through special learning classes. Towards the end of his grade X, my parents bought him audiobooks of the Harry Potter series and afterwards he spent most of his time holed up in his room lost in the magical world of Hogwarts. I specifically remember Mr. John Samuel, who was the special education teacher in charge of my brother. He would conduct two hour long classes three times a week at the school where my brother studied. Slowly but steadily my brother started improving in academics especially in subjects like history and geography. I was really impressed by the teaching methods implemented by Mr Samuel to influence students with learning disabilities.

During a parents meeting, I had the opportunity to strike up a conversation with Mr Samuel. He told me that there were a lot of students with my brother's condition in the country and he was teaching at five different schools. I learnt that about 14% of the student community have learning disabilities and there weren't enough teachers to attend to these children. Teachers in special education should be specially trained to assist kids with their educational needs, assuring academic, behavioural, interpersonal, and psychological progress. This experience motivated me to follow in the footsteps of Mr Samuel and become a special education teacher in order to assist individuals like my brother.

As the first step in achieving this goal, I pursued my bachelor's degree in Special Education from Indian Institute of Health Education and Research, Patna and graduated in 2022 with a CGPA of 8.5. My specialisation in Behavioral Development enabled me to concentrate on the assumptions underlying early childhood psychology as well as the roles that culture and communities play in child behavior. Taking classes both inside and outside of my degree that address the needs of people with challenges and their parents fueled my desire to work with youngsters with cognitive and behavioural impairments. I had interned at the Autism Residential Community, Vellore, Tamil Nadu for two months. Not only did I receive practical training educating youngsters and establishing academic profiles, but I also gained expertise designing supportive resources for infants, caregivers, and general public. I have also had the opportunity to work as a part time teacher at Life Child Care Center, Chennai. The behaviours and perceptions of young infants and children presented me with ongoing challenges. I was pulled to youngsters with learning and behavioural challenges once again. I met my first kid with an Individualized Learning Program not long after I started. I used my previous observations and talents to help a child who was unable to communicate in Hindi and had a language disability.

I wish to further my academic base in the subject by pursuing higher studies from a reputed grad school. My research has shown me that the University of Newcastle offers a fantastic Master of Special and Inclusive Education program. Teachers and other practitioners operating in the special education or cognitive impairment fields can use the programme to gain technical expertise and intricate learning in order to better help juveniles with learning disabilities. Integrating cutting-edge study with pragmatic training will prepare candidates to adopt a variety of evidence-based tools and methodologies to meet learners' requirements and improve their academic and social performance. I wish to specialize in General Special Education and Behavioural Patterns. I have selected this institution as it is a global leader and pathfinder in modern education. The institution is placed at 197th position according to QS World University Ranking 2022.

Completing this program would certainly allow me to improve my skills to teach young students with learning disabilities. After completing this course, I intend to return to my home country and secure a position as Educational Diagnostician or Educational Administrator at any of the leading institutions for students with special needs. I just hope that I will be able to make a difference in the lives of children like my brother and their parents.