

APPLICANT NAME:

Shriya Maini

COURSE - NAME & CODE:

Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL); 002640

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Five years of graduation study at Gujarat National Law University, India have adequately equipped me with the knowledge for pursuing a career in law. However, my experience and inquisitiveness to learn has made me ponder upon the fact that to deal with the complexity of legal and social issues, a mere Bachelors degree would not suffice. I therefore believe that the course of Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL) from Oxford University where academic rigor is unrivaled, would afford me the right global platform to pursue my intellectual drive and refine my knowledge and skills in my areas of interest. Besides, it would prepare me for my doctoral studies and give direction to my goal of becoming a successful academician and legal expert.

Being a single child of my lawyer-father, the calling happened much as premeditated and law became the conformist career option. While at school and later at college, I remained focused and channelized my strengths towards academic excellence. My academic vitals witnessed a percentage of 90.8 and 92 at the Senior Secondary (XII standard) and Secondary (X standard) levels respectively. The highlights of my academic records are further evidenced by several scholarships received, most notably the *All India CBSE Single Girl-Child Merit Scholarship for Academic Excellence*, Sri Aurobindo Merit Scholarship for the Most Outstanding Student; Scholarship for Excellence in Leadership Skills, *inter-alia* others.

At law school, I strived to maintain an overall Percentage of 80.5 in a batch of 160 students and consistently maintained the first rank for five years (with a Cumulative Grade Point Average of 6.81/7). Besides intellectually enriching me, such an extensive graduate study directed me to focus upon research and teaching as my probable career options. I developed a keen interest towards the subjects of Constitutional Law and Administrative Laws. These subjects mapped the nexus between man and society for me. I was deeply engrossed in reading commentaries on Indian Constitutional Laws, written by eminent authors such as Shri H.M. Seervai and Dr. V.N. Shukla. My academic interest in these subjects became even more profound during the preparation of my dissertation titled '*Need for a separate Constitutional Court in India*', submitted as a part of partial fulfillment of completion of curriculum in the subject of Comparative Constitutional Laws. Consequently, I envisaged an academic career in these subjects.

My prime motivation to pursue higher studies was strengthened by a life-changing experience. During my second year of law school, my father, in his capacity as the Managing Director of a company was confronted with a fiery litigation. This financially drained our family's monetary resources, besides causing immense pain

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and mental trauma. As a single child and budding student of law, when I witnessed the suffering of my parents, I took the lead and facilitated my father, rendering him help in every way that I could. I learnt the tally based accounting system, sitting for hours with Chartered Accountants checking the books of accounts and other statutory records, besides aiding my father in preparation of legal drafts. Since the concepts and methodologies of BCL promise to solve problems across different fields, I look to dive deeper into the ocean of academics, especially learning the language of Constitutional law and theory.

Later at law school, I began taking lectures for junior classes in Taxation Laws and Civil procedure Code under the Academic Support Programme. This initiative is a University regulated affair wherein lectures comprising of hourly classes are taken by student Teaching Assistants post college hours for the underprivileged students. It afforded me an opportunity to decipher my love for teaching and disseminating knowledge to one and all. Besides participating in moots, conferences and publications, I interned at exalted law firms, including the likes of *Amarchand and Magaldas, Suresh A. and Shroff and Co. and Jyoti Sagar and Associates*. Having tasted the flavours of the commercial world, I firmly believe that academics was my first love and it remains so.

Though there has been a lot of development in the legal field but still several problems remain unsolved. It is interesting to note that when the law is silent on Indian soils, recourse maybe drawn to the flowing stream of foreign intellect. It is only thorough research that one can help find solutions, enrich and enhance knowledge as well as aid the tentative treatment of legal diseases. The socio-legal roots of the Indian Constitution are deep seated in Common law, wherefrom the three pillars, namely the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary derive their power. Their inter-face demands that an independent Constitutional Court be established forthwith in India (in *pari-materia* with other nations of the European Union), an area that I aspire to probe further into. Especially with Telangana demanding separate statehood in India, a deeper understanding of how the progression of EU's constitutional arrangements administer a complex level of socio-political governance, (maintaining an equilibrium between the EU law and the domestic laws of the Member States) could contribute manifolds. Therefore, I look forward to a fulfilling academic experience at the Oxford University, specifically studying modules falling in line with Constitutional Principles of the EU and Constitutional Theory. I believe my long-term career would be well grounded in research or teaching of Comparative Constitutional Laws where I would finally have an opportunity of putting all my skills into practice and carve out an enduring career silhouette out of the mould of my law education. It would be a great learning experience academically, to be able to pursue the BCL at the eminent Oxford University and interact with law graduates from across the globe.