



I have been interested in the role of religion and philosophy in society since I began my degree in Business and Marketing in 2016 and after I became an autodidact of both philosophy and theology from age fifteen as I have not yet had any formal teaching in these subjects. My degree in Business and Marketing opened my mind to the wider international world; I began to learn about different countries, their social, cultural and religious landscapes, how this effects business in such regions, as well as keeping close attention to current affairs. My interests moved closer and closer to the topic of religion in society as I began to study the theologies, philosophies, and demographics of different religions.

On the day of my fifteenth birthday, I had the idea to create my own fictional detective character named Jesse Millette which I am currently in the process of working with publishers to develop it into an entire franchise. Not long after I began to write fictional pieces, my interests quickly turned to the arguably more challenging topics of religion, philosophy, and politics. I have recently completed my first philosophical treatise under the mononymous pen name Cometan; this treatise, titled the Omnidoxy, is over 1.25 million words long and I began writing it when I was seventeen (now 21). This subsequently lead to the founding of my own philosophy which I have called Astronism. I have already started to receive public attention for this and it is my central ambition to further expand and disseminate this philosophy/new religious movement which I feel that this course will be aptly suitable to my pursuit of.

To provide more personal information about myself, I grew up in a deeply religious family. My grandmother was a devout Roman Catholic and was a member of a number of lay Catholic organisations including Opus Dei and the Latin Mass Society and although I paid little attention to what my grandmother taught about Catholicism when I was a child, I feel that her deep religiosity has lit a spark within me to be interested in religion on an academic level. I feel compelled to explore the nature and philosophy of religion, the psychology of religious belief, and most appropriately to this course, the way religion was and has been intertwined with society and the wider cultural sphere. One of my key interests regarding religion which is particularly relevant to the development of my own philosophy of Astronism are the questions surrounding the future of religion.

Another recent factor that has further propelled my interest in religion is the fact that I have worked at Hoghton Tower, a local castle and stately home, for the previous two years. I work there as the sole marketer for the entire Preservation Trust in a challenging role whilst I completed my Business and Marketing degree. However, it was when I began to learn about the religious history of the Tower, both in the late medieval and even in ancient history, that I realised the significant role that religion has placed in the Tower's history. From hosting nonconformism in the Banqueting Hall in 1700s, the de Hoghton family's switching between Catholicism and Anglicanism throughout their history in order to keep in alignment with the political landscape, to the fact that the Tower is one of the most haunted sites in Britain leading several bands of mediums, spiritualists and other groups to want to come to the Tower, this absolutely fascinated me and I became immersed into a world that I had not known to exist prior due to my strictly Catholic and arguably narrow upbringing whereby other religions and philosophies were purposefully not spoken of or debated.

I have been informed by one of my lecturers at UCLan that due to the fact that I am a UCLan graduate, I only require one reference. The reference I have chosen to provide is from Caroline Holliday who taught me throughout my third and final year of my Business and Marketing degree. I have also provided attachments for my Dean's List certificate and CMPR Divisional Prize award which was granted to me by Caroline Holliday herself. I hope you have found some of this information about both my professional career and personal background interest so as to provide you with an understanding of why I am applying for this MA.

Thank you.