

Simon D. T. Saunders

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Personal Statement

I am a recent graduate of the University of Exeter where I studied Politics and International Relations. I am a highly motivated individual with a keen interest in travelling, international affairs and understanding new cultures. I recently travelled throughout China where I developed a deep respect and love for the culture and people. My time in the country made me realise it was a place where I would like to live and work. I have worked extensively in a retail environment as both a customer assistant and on the management side. My career at Marks and Spencer enabled me to have demonstrated initiative, creativity in problem solving, leadership and a commitment to building consensus and excellence throughout. Being used to working on my own initiative as well as in a team, I have developed good communication and interpersonal skills, which includes the ability to motivate others, to negotiate and to develop group participation. My academic record, communication and leadership skills, experience in the retail sector and drive to succeed, I feel would make me an ideal candidate for the position. I have worked with children in a teaching capacity in both Palestine and Laos, and have offered tutoring to those younger than me at university and school.

Education

- 2010—2013** **University of Exeter**
BA in Politics and International Relations (2:1)
- 2002—2009** **Dane Court Grammar School**
A– Levels: Politics (A), English (A), Geography (B)
GCSEs in 13 subjects including Maths (A*) and English Literature (A*)

Employment

- 2012**
(May—Sept) **Clinical Co-ordinator/Sales,**
Advanced Medical Institute, Sydney, Australia
A medical centre specialising in male health issues, responsible for organizing doctors consultations, patient payments and prescriptions. A sales role, both over the phone and face-to-face offering patients packages of treatment.
- 2010**
(Jan—Sept) **Food and Food Stock Management Section Co-ordinator**
Marks and Spencer, Broadstairs, United Kingdom
A supervisory role of a team of around 25, with the responsibility for the day-to-day running of a busy food hall. The role involved organizing and motivating teams to achieve goals, training and monitoring customer advisors, implementing policy changes effectively and controlling stock loss and accuracy. Involving people management in difficult situations and responding to the needs to customers to maximize sales.
- 2009**
(Aug—Dec) **Cafe Section Co-ordinator**
Marks and Spencer, Broadstairs, United Kingdom
Management of a team of 8 and running a café within the store. Involving people management in difficult situations and responding to the needs to customers to maximize sales.
- 2007—2009**
Customer Advisor
Marks and Spencer, Broadstairs, United Kingdom.
Assisting customers in-store and displaying excellent customer service at all times.

Internship Experience

- 2011**
(Feb—Mar) **Truro & Falmouth Constituency Caseworker**
Sarah Newton MP, Threemilestone, United Kingdom
Undertaking casework for the local MP, responding to the personal needs of constituents, assisting in weekly surgeries and dairy organisation.
- 2011**
(Jun—Jul) **Political Researcher**
Sarah Newton MP, Westminster, United Kingdom.
Involved in running of the Westminster office, providing research for policy issues, drafting press releases and statements, dealing with media enquiries.

Voluntary Experience

- 2011**
(Jul—Aug) **Public Service Volunteer**
Inspire Dreams, Bethlehem, West bank
Working with children in refugee camps in a academic, athletic and arts-based capacity. Building life skills and helping with community development. Dealing with issues such as non-violence and conflict resolution
- 2013**
(Jun—Jul) **English Teacher**
Big Brother Mouse, Luang Prabang, Laos
Teaching children of all ages to develop their English skills. Travelling to rural villages to help with English lessons, distributing books to remote areas.

Achievements

- 2012-2013** **Chairman: Cornwall Conservative Future**
Representing Cornwall CF at a national level, co-coordinating all Cornish youth branches
- 2012-2013** **President: Student Union Conservative Society**
Organising events throughout the year, mobilising support on campaign days, recruiting new members
- 2011-2012** **Executive Officer** Falmouth and Exeter Students Union
Responsible Student Union Campaigns, ensure campaigns complied with student regulations, providing support and guidance to society groups.
- 2008-2009** **Head Boy** Dane Court Grammar School
Figurehead for the school, representing student and acting as a medium between teachers.
- 2007-2008** **Head of House** Dane Court Grammar School
Aiding integration across all years, organising events and activities, building sportsmanship

Languages

English	Fluent
French	Basic
Mandarin	Beginner (currently learning)

References

References available on request