

# Stephen O'Connor

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## Personal Details:

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## Personal Statement:

Currently studying for a Bachelor of Arts at Maynooth University, with Geography as a major and Chinese Studies as a minor. Eager to advance my education and gain experience in new and interesting environments. I would describe myself as hard-working, determined, and well-organised. I believe I possess skills which would make me an asset in any environment.

## Skills Profile:

- **Computer proficiency:** My studies at university mean I am well-acquainted with programs such as Word, Excel and Powerpoint. I also have some experience with GIS and SPSS, software that involve working with large datasets.
- **Languages:** I have always had an interest in languages. I achieved an A2 in Higher Level French and a B2 in Higher Level Irish in my Leaving Certificate. I am currently studying Mandarin as part of my Chinese Studies course in university and have passed the HSK Level 3 examination.
- **Essays and Assignments:** I have gained experience in sourcing relevant and reliable information through my work in university, and am well acquainted with the Harvard referencing format.
- **Group work and Presentation Skills:** As part of my degree so far, I have been involved in a number of group projects and presentations. I have good oral presentation skills, and have demonstrated strong leadership skills when working as part of a group.

## Educational Background:

### **Maynooth University (2015 – Present)**

- In the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final year of my undergraduate degree at Maynooth University, studying Geography and Chinese. I achieved 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours in both subjects in years 1 and 2. I also hold a 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Honours Grade 1 in History from my first year.
- My studies in Geography so far have been broad in nature, covering topics such as population, climate change and global foodscapes. Also involved with the Staff-Student Liaison Committee, where my job was to discuss student concerns with senior staff in the Geography Department. In Chinese, my studies have been split 50/50 between Mandarin Chinese and Chinese history and culture.

### **Tullamore College (2010 – 2015)**

- I sat my Leaving Certificate in the summer of 2015, and achieved a score of 525 points.

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## Work/Experience:

- 2017 – Worked for several weeks with my classmates transcribing Irish rainfall data for Maynooth University's ICARUS department, as part of ongoing research into historical drought in Ireland.
- 2015 – Offered my assistance during several coaching sessions, organised by the club professional of Tullamore Golf Club for younger junior members.
- 2014 - Spent just over a week with another student combing through the historical records of the Offaly Vocational Educational Committee, researching the history Tullamore College, on behalf of principal, Richard E. McEvoy.
- 2013/14 – Volunteered for a number of weeks after-hours in my secondary school. Acted as a supervisor, offering my assistance for those who required help with their study.

## Achievements and Awards:

- 2017 – HSK Level 3 examination (Chinese Language) – Passed
- 2015 – Maynooth University Entrance Scholarship Award.
- 2015 – Department of Education and Skills Third Level Bursary.
- 2015 – Senior Student of the Year for History; Tullamore College.
- 2015 – Senior Student of the Year for Geography; Tullamore College.
- 2015 – Tullamore College Medal for Determination.
- 2015 – Gaisce: The President's Award; Bronze
- 2015 – Junior Boys Captain; Tullamore Golf Club.
- 2014 – Generation Euro Students Award (2<sup>nd</sup>)
- 2013 – Junior Student of the Year for History, Tullamore College.
- 2013 – Maynooth University Student Endeavour Award (Irish).

## Interests

- Avid golfer; member of Tullamore Golf Club since 2011.
- Keen traveller; completed a nine-day tour of four countries in 2016. Last year, I travelled to Lanzarote as part of a compulsory Geography field trip, and gained excellent experience in fieldwork and group-related activities.
- Interested in foreign cultures, which motivated my decision to undertake Chinese Studies as part of my degree.
- I have an interest in quizzes and quiz shows, and enjoy improving my general knowledge and trivia skills.