



Chinese ambition for determined student Ellis

Havering Sixth Form College student Ellis Joseph is in the Upper Sixth studying A Levels in English Language, Media Studies and Sociology. He has developed a particular interest in Chinese and plans to study International/Business Management and Chinese, where a good proportion of the course is studied in China. He would then like to take a TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) gap year after doing his degree. This is his story:



“As a student people always seem to be slightly confused when I tell them I have a passion for Mandarin Chinese. I am aware it does sound a little strange, but once I reveal I plan to combine this with business, it all becomes clear.

“Languages in general have always been something I have enjoyed but being given the opportunity to study something different and original was the big eye opener. I was lucky enough to be given the chance to study Chinese GCSE and went on to get an A and since then I haven't looked back. Yearly trips to China to visit newly made friends and old school teachers and weekly tuition has confirmed my love for a great nation.

“My initial plan was that before attending University, I would take a gap year to teach English to Chinese schoolchildren. I have been saving up hard for the trip, however due to the recent announcement of the University tuition fee rise, I feel it's in my best interests to go to University this year to get in with today's prices. So in September 2011 I plan to go to University to study International Business/Management and Chinese with a year of study abroad to China to really enhance my language skills.

“Speaking with the College's careers and personal/senior tutors has really helped in terms of how to go about my future and what I need to do in order to get there. My personal tutor, Wahid Faquir, has given me nothing but encouragement and seems enthusiastic to be of any help. The careers team have also been invaluable with their advice on whether I should take my gap year or not and on information about entrance to my University course for next year.

“Even though my gap TEFL teaching year is going to be postponed until after my degree, I am 100% sure it's going to be a great experience, and who knows where I will end up settling, but I am determined to become a success in Chinese and Business - whether it be in the UK or in China.”