



Rejected Applicants: Personas and Suggestions



**UKRAINE
GLOBAL
SCHOLARS**

Roksi Nice

Suggestions for improvement:

- Find a passion. She needs to find something that motivates her to take charge, show initiative, and get deeply involved
- Practice being more social. She has been working mostly alone throughout her life. Participation in group projects and teamwork can make her more motivated and interested in pursuing new projects.
- Learn to lead. She was led by her parents and teachers throughout her entire life. Now it is her turn to step up and lead others.
- Decide if she truly needs UGS and the responsibility that comes with it

Roksi is a nice 16 year old girl from a family on a lower border of middle class. She always has good grades in the local school and sometimes even attends city level Olympiads, just as her parents and teachers want her to. She attends drawing and dance schools that her parents signed her up for when she was seven. Roksi knows English grammar well as long as the teacher had covered it at school, her speaking and writing are a little unnatural, though grammatically correct.

Roksi is very passive: she does what her parents and teachers tell her to do and considers that to be enough. She does not know about the available opportunities for self-development because she never bothered to research them. Overall, she has never left the comfort zone, she has always had guidance. Her vision of the future is limited to the vague images of personal happiness, success, and good life.

Vasya Simple

Vasya is a 17 year old boy from a small town. His grades are mediocre - he keeps getting 7's and 8's for his lack of preparation. He has been to a school level Olympiad once but found it to be a waste of time. In general, he only likes to study 'important' things, like math and physics, but does not put too much effort into his academics. He plays guitar and swims well, but has never tried to develop his hobby. It is hard for him to express himself in the essays as his English level is low, and he has hardly attempted to improve it.

He is trying to find a shortcut to success by applying to UGS-type organizations. His effort level is low, he does not try hard enough to reach his goals. He has never thought of his future before and clearly does not know how to make something out of himself.

Suggestions for improvement:

- Learn English! He has never attempted to master the language for his lack of interest and academic commitment. Learning a language, alone or with a mentor, could, besides improving his level, improve his level of commitment to academics.
- Adopt a more mature perspective - understand that to achieve something he needs to work hard, no shortcuts. If he is not ready to commit to improving himself, maybe he should consider a simpler path.

Nastia Curler

Suggestions for improvement:

- Start another hobby. This will help her develop a wider range of skills, grow as a person, connect with different kinds of peers (improving personality and social skills), and become a more appealing applicant
- Use her passion for the common good. Focusing exclusively on her hobby does not make life better for anyone else. If she uses her main passion to help others through charity and volunteering projects, her skill set will grow and her hobby will be more valuable.
- Consider the responsibilities UGS puts upon a finalist. Is she ready to give up or scale down her primary passion?

She is 17 and really good at curling. She has made the national Olympic curling team, that's how good she is. She is so focused on her single achievement that she loses most of her other personality - her academic work is OK at best, she does not do any extracurricular work besides her main hobby, she is slightly socially awkward because all she knows is curling. However, her spoken English is good, she picked up a lot of it on international curling competitions.

She sees her future strongly connected to her achievement and it is hard to convince her to leave space for personal development. Generally, she does not know how to use or not interested in using her skill for the public good.

Kristina Kool

17, smart, FLEX finalist, from a large city, currently in the US. Knows what American education is like, and her essays are of higher-than-average quality, making her look like a decent applicant. She has some local academic achievements and does well at school.

She thinks that her FLEX success story and the compulsory certificate of volunteer work are unique and strong hooks. She is involved in some projects among her FLEX friends but does not show significant leadership nor she attempts to be the best among her peers. She believes that the US is inherently better than Ukraine and that she deserves to take the best.

Suggestions for improvement:

- Humble herself. She needs to clearly understand the level of a typical college/boarding school applicant and see that she has to do much more to even approach that level.
- Work on her spike. While she has some nice achievements, she is among hundreds of applicants like her. She needs to find something she likes to do and put more of her resources into developing her skills and authority in that area.
- Remember that UGS requires students to come back to Ukraine

Anton Young

Suggestions for improvement:

- Keep learning. He has to keep himself motivated yet start working on truly important things. He has to learn what will make him a stronger applicant and what matters to him among the things he does.
- Take the lead in his focus area. If he wants to be a lawyer, he needs to work ahead and learn the law, find the law projects for the Ukrainian youth and sign up for as many of them as his resources allow him. Thus he will gain a sense of direction in his work.
- Don't give up and apply next year, understand that a rejection is only a push to grow.

Just turned 15. He is young and good at whatever he does. Teachers and peers like him, everything he tries, he succeeds at - grades at school, Olympiads, piano competitions. His English is not very good but he is trying to learn more. He has opportunities to develop his skills as he is from a middle-class family and lives in a larger city.

He wants to be a lawyer and wants to help Ukraine but right now he does not know how. He is applying to UGS to get into the world of higher achievement while carrying none on his back.