

Paul Pelech

Ph.D. Student, Economics

Interviewed by: Evan Mellott

For a man who once took a vow of silence for a month, Paul had no hesitation sharing his experiences as a Cyclone. After completing his undergraduate degree in economics at Purdue University, he applied to 9 Ph.D. programs across the country and chose to come to Iowa State University because it was the best offer he received.

Paul's passion for Economics is much more than the mathematics behind supply and demand. From his point of view, economics is about the concept of scarcity and using math to study human behavior. Influenced by mission trips earlier in life, Paul was inspired to earn a Ph.D. in economics and follow a career path that would allow him to help struggling communities. Paul's goal is to become a professor in his field and aid in policy changes that take into account human preferences and their impacts on the economy.



When he isn't teaching courses, grading, or studying, Paul enjoys watching and reviewing movies. It is a method of escape that allows him to tap into his creative side and relax. He is also working towards completing a novel and hopes to publish it. Paul is also a member of the Iowa State Crew Club. He is an experienced rower and his history with rowing started back at Purdue University where he was on the team for two years. Rowing seems to be a routine form of involvement for Paul because he also continued to train in Austria when studying abroad as an undergraduate.

Paul has been at Iowa State since fall '17 and plans to graduate between '22 and '23. Getting into graduate school is one of his proudest accomplishments. His work ethic is demonstrated through his research pursuits and involvement on campus. Iowa State is lucky to have him as a member of Economics department. No vow of silence could keep Paul from describing how rewarding it is to be a cyclone.