

WRITING YOUR



PERSONAL STATEMENT

Writing your personal statement

WHAT IS A PERSONAL STATEMENT?

Your personal statement is the most important part of your application to university. It explains who you are, why you think you are a good applicant and why you want to study the course you have chosen. It is about 4000 characters/47 lines and needs to be submitted along with the rest of your UCAS application.

WHY DOES A PERSONAL STATEMENT MATTER?

It allows you to stand out from other applicants with the same grades. Competition for university is tough; your grades alone will not get you a place. Think of it like a job application – you need to impress.

DO...

- **Answer the core questions.**
Make sure to cover all three questions with a sufficient amount of detail.
- **Remember the statement is reviewed as a whole.**
Don't worry about which section to include information in. The core questions are there to help you cover all necessary information, not to catch you out.
- **Show awareness of your subject.**
Make sure your passion shines through.
- **Make it relevant and current.**
- **Give examples to back up your points:**
don't just say "I am adaptable and have excellent time management skills" without any evidence. How does your reader know this is true? Instead, try something like this: "I've developed excellent time management skills through juggling my studies with a part-time job and babysitting my sisters twice a week. Balancing these responsibilities while still leaving time for hobbies is challenging, but I make weekly plans which enable me to organise myself well."
- **Use all the space** – just writing a few lines isn't enough.
- **Check your deadlines.**
Find out from your school or college when you have to apply by. Plan ahead so you can take your time writing a winning personal statement!

DON'T...

- **Lie.**
You will be caught out.
- **Use slang or poor English.**
This is a formal document.
- **Use bullet points.** Write in full paragraphs.
- **Get someone else to write it** – that includes personal statements found online. Admissions tutors have software which will tell them if something is stolen.
- **Try to include too much.**
It is better to mention a few skills with examples to show how you developed them.
- **Repeat information** that is elsewhere on your application.
- **Mention specific universities.**
The same personal statement goes to all your choices.



PERSONAL STATEMENT

Why do you want to study this course or subject?

How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

TOP TIP...

You can use the 4000 character count limit across all answers in any way you choose. The amount you write for each question can vary depending on your chosen course and experience.

Over the next four pages you will find prompts which will help you to answer the three questions. You don't have to answer every prompt, they are just there to help you.



PERSONAL STATEMENT Online Review Service

This free service aims to help students write a personal statement that stands out.

All you need to do is upload your draft statement as a Word document to the form below and you'll receive expert feedback from our team.

Once we've put together our feedback, we'll email the statement back within 14 days, so you can get started on a final draft straight away.

www.mdx.ac.uk/study/personal-statement-review



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