

Writing personal statements

You have 4000 characters including spaces and 47 lines to complete your personal statement.

“When you’ve got 1500 applicants for 75 places, then at the end of the day it’s down to the personal statement”



PERSONAL STATEMENT

- *There is not such thing as a model statement...each one should be different.*
- You should feel good about what you write, so you can submit your UCAS application knowing you've done yourself justice.
- TIP: Don't leave it to the last minute



“WHAT WE REALLY LIKE IS SOMETHING THAT MAKES YOU STAND OUT”

- *“We’re looking for people who have a passion for their subject, who are serious about studying but who also have a life”*
- *“A genuine interest in the course is the most important thing, but applicants can express this in many different ways”*

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- *“Admissions officers are busy, so you need to grab their attention. What is that makes you different?”*
- *“There are no rules for what it put in your statement, but a bit of originality, individuality and personality are so important”*

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- *“Organise your material, structure it, don’t waffle, give us an insight into your mind and sound interesting.”*
- *“If you’ve had relevant work experience we want to know what you learned from it.”*

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PERSONAL STATEMENT

- This is one of the most important elements of your application. It is your opportunity to sell yourself and secure an offer of a place. Your statement needs to show your motivation and commitment to your chosen course.

There is no one way to write the statement but there are some suggestions:

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- Your course
- Show you've researched your chosen course. Why are you interested? What sparked your interest? What specific topics do you enjoy? If you're applying for more than one course try to identify common factors.
- Career path
- If you have an idea of the career path you would like to follow, explain how the course fits.

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- Work experience
- Particularly related to your course choice. Be specific about what you learned. Refer to transferable skills gained.

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- Personal achievements
- Include any personal achievements and what they demonstrate, for example, participation in a fund-raising event may have involved: team work, research and organisational skills, commitment and perseverance. Describe any positions of responsibility you've held such as student mentor or team leader.

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- Extra-curricular activities
- You should include activities that support your course choice. Describe any visits you have made; for example, visits to art galleries for art courses or hospitals for nursing. Even if your interests aren't directly relevant it's important to give an impression of your personality, so mention any hobbies or gap year plans.

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[HTTP://WWW.UCAS.AC.UK/STUDENTS/](http://www.ucas.ac.uk/students/)

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