What a University is looking for from your personal statement – from the University of Reading’s perspective.

The Personal Statement is absolutely critical to the success of your application. It is your only real chance to sell yourself to the Admissions Tutor in a very short space of time. Below you will find a guide on what to include in your UCAS form.

Personal Statement
Bear in mind the following areas (this isn’t a definitive list or a prescriptive order in which they should appear – each personal statement will be unique to the individual)

- Sixth Form studies: skills developed, subject knowledge relating to degree, motivation
- Mention why have you applied for this course (keep this non-specific to a university)
- Willingness to study at a higher level
- Work experience and relevance to degree
- Planned intentions for Gap Year (if you are intending to defer you entry)
- Extra-curricular activities, hobbies and interests inside and outside school
- Personal/ academic achievements
- Any other qualifications
- Tasters/Masterclasses (what skills did you develop as a result)
- Positions of responsibility (e.g house captain/head boy/girl/mentor)
- Future plans and how does that link to degree?

Top tips

A good place to start is to make lists of personal skills and qualities and extra curricular activities and then link them together.

Be selective about what you include. We don’t need to know everything about you but chose things that highlight your abilities.

Do make sure you have some extra-curricular activities to talk about. We are looking for an indication of what sort of person you are, and how you will contribute to the university outside of your studies.

Key points to note

- Be honest (Admissions Tutors will be able to tell if you aren’t) so be able to back up statements/facts
- Make sure you write your own personal statement but get help from school/college or parents (they can give a fresh perspective)
- Not all courses interview so your UCAS application has to really sell you as a good potential student
- Your Personal Statement should not look like a CV or a list of information
• Take care over your choice of applications; consistency of choice is important as it is very difficult to justify why you want to do 5 very different subjects on your personal statement.
• We are always looking for that something else / little bit different in terms of content NOT style.
• Don’t expect to get it done quickly and leave plenty of time
• Be clear & accurate in all that you say, including spelling and grammar
• Think about layout and how it’s presented