



PERSONAL STATEMENTS

KEY POINTS

- **Why?** - Personal statements give you an opportunity to prove to a university that you are the perfect candidate for a course. Make sure you show that you understand what the subject is about and that you really like it. Highlight skills and attributes that will help you through university study such as independent study, research, time management, self-awareness, commitment and motivation.
- **Basic facts** – The limit for personal statements is 4000 characters or 47 lines, whichever is reached first. Note that the same personal statement will be sent to all five of your choices.
- **Structure** – In our suggested structure, we recommend your opening paragraph explains your interest in a subject. Subsequent paragraphs can talk about your skills and attributes, provide evidence for these from work experience, personal achievements and other events you have attended such as taster days. The final paragraph should mention what you hope to do with your degree in the future.
- **Top tips** – Draft, redraft, and proofread – get others to check your content, spelling and grammar. Be honest and don't plagiarise. For evidencing use the ABC method; action, benefit and course. What did you do? Why was it beneficial? And how is this related to your course?

THINGS TO DO NEXT

- Our [free online courses](#) can help you understand subject area better and prepare for uni.
- Our [taster days](#) give you a day-long insight into what it will be like to study your chosen subject
- Open days are the best way to find out about universities and their courses. Come visit our [open days](#) in the summer and autumn terms.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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SUGGESTED STRUCTURE

Below we have provided a suggested structure for your personal statement and what you could include. Fill out each of the sections to help you plan your personal statement.

OPENING

Your opening paragraph is there to get the admissions tutor's attention. They want to get to know you. Avoid clichés and be honest about why you want to study this subject.

Your interest in the subject – Why do you want to study this subject? When and how did you first become interested in it?

YOU AND YOUR EXPERIENCES

This is where you will bring together your experiences with the skills you want the university to know you have. Using the ABC method (action, benefit, course) might help you further organise your sentences.

Taster days, master classes and research – List anything you have done outside of school that show you have looked further into this subject.	Work experience – Have you done any paid or unpaid work that might be relevant? Particularly important for caring professions and teaching.
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Personal achievements – List any achievements that might be evidence of your skills. E.g. hobbies, competitions, DoE, things you have overcome.	Skills and attributes – What skills do you already have that might be useful at uni? E.g. self-motivation, resilience, time management, commitment, etc.

Something about you – This is the miscellaneous section. Is there anything else about you that might be relevant to your application or that you'd like to talk about?

THE FUTURE

This is your opportunity to round off your personal statement and let the university know that not only will you be a great student, but you are motivated to use your degree further.

What will you do with your degree after you have completed it? Study further? A specific job? Something else? Why would this be important to you? If you are considering a gap year that is related to the course you are hoping to study, you can mention this also.

DOs AND DON'Ts TO REMEMBER

- **Do** ask people for their feedback.
- **Do** proofread and make several drafts.
- **Do** be honest and enthusiastic.
- **Do** research your course and make your statement fit with it.
- **Do** make it your own. The admissions tutors want to know you.
- **Don't** copy. Universities check for plagiarism.
- **Don't** exaggerate! You might get caught out.
- **Don't** rely on spell checker.
- **Don't** leave it till the last minute.
- **Don't** panic. There isn't such thing as a perfect personal statement.