

THESE PERSONAL
STATEMENTS ARE
JUST ME...ME...ME!



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Personal statement – start early

Personal statements are so important, make sure you include:

- academic achievements, past and present
- interests in the chosen subject area
- knowledge of the subject and enthusiasm to go beyond the syllabus
- what you enjoy about studying
- details of your independent study skills.

Personal statements should stand out – tutors receive 200 per week!

The questions universities/colleges will ask:

- have you chosen the right subject for the right reasons?
- do you have a range of interests?
- does the personal statement confirm your interest in the subject?
- have you studied independently?
- are you motivated and committed?
- do you possess good numeracy and literacy skills?

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How to write an effective Personal Statement

Your personal statement is an opportunity for you to demonstrate why you think you would be a good student for the degree course you are applying to and why a university should select your application **over** those of other candidates.

Your statement will need to be extremely concise as you only have 4,000 characters and 47 lines to do it in.

A really useful website you can use is:

<http://www.maccery.com/ps/>

This website uses the same line/character counting system that UCAS website uses and will help you stay within the strict limits.

This is your only chance to
talk directly to the
Admissions Tutor

As you are so limited by the number of characters/lines you can use there is no easy way to write a great personal statement. It just takes time and effort.

It has to be your ideas expressed in the language that you would use so the hardest thing is starting....

How to write an effective Personal Statement

1. Why this subject?

This could be a short sentence and needs to capture the key reason why you are interested in studying on the programme you are applying for. Some of the most effective personal statements start simply, for example, “I want to study History because...”. With this opening statement you are trying to communicate to the admissions tutor your enthusiasm for the programme.

Some statements start with quotes and even jokes. It can work but it can backfire if they don't have same sense of humour as you.

You might want to think about these questions and areas:

- Your knowledge of the subject area
- What does the programme entail?
- Why does it interest you?
- What interests you the most?
- Where could studying the programme lead?

Plan, draft, edit, redraft, edit,
check, re-check

How to write an effective Personal Statement

2. Why You?

Here you need to demonstrate why you would be a good student for this specific course. You need to be able to show the Admissions Tutor that you have the right background in terms of academic ability and the right interests. For example, if you want to be a primary school teacher but have never worked with children of that age the admissions tutor might wonder why you want to be a teacher?

When writing this section you'll need to think about and quote evidence from:

- Your academic studies
- Any paid work/work experience/voluntary work
- Your hobbies and interests

Plan, draft, edit, redraft, edit,
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1. Why do you want to study this subject?
2. What have you done in the past that makes you particularly suitable to study the subject?
3. What else have you done that would contribute to the course and the university community and makes you an interesting and unique individual?

Do's and Don'ts

Do

- list your personal qualities and skills
- link those skills and qualities to subjects you study or activities
- lists your academic and personal achievements
- say what you can do well
- Use Microsoft Word to type it up first. Then copy and paste it into box in UCAS when ready
- Use <http://www.maccery.com/ps/> to check for limits
- Get feedback from parents/Form Tutors
- Draft, edit, redraft, edit and write again.

Plan, draft, edit, redraft, edit,
check, re-check

Don't

- waffle / Be vague / Write in long breathless sentences
- Be repetitive
- use fancy language you don't understand
- Forget to use spell check

Useful places to do some research

- [The Student Room](#)
- [Studential.Com](#)
- [Which? - Personal Statements](#)



Get started

What does good look like?



Microsoft Word
Document



The UCAS Buzzword is “flamingo85”

