

# **Personal statements**

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# The big picture

- UCAS application form (deadline 15 January)
- Five choices on the form
- Personal statement
- Reference from your tutor
- Interview (not for all courses)
- Portfolio/Audition – where appropriate

# Why is the statement important?

- Carries a lot of weight with universities
- Demonstrates your reasons for applying
- Is the first and often only chance to 'sell yourself' to your university choices
- Gives a flavour of you
- Opportunity to create a good impression to Admissions Tutors

# Structure

- Construct the personal statement through key paragraphs
- Keep sentences short and to the point
- Brainstorm ideas
- Write a draft version and condense it afterwards
- Do not make it specific to one university

# Paragraph 1

- Explain your choice of subject
- Outline why you are interested in the subject(s). Why does the content/ structure of the course appeal to you?
- Does your current study have relevance to your subject choices?
- Demonstrates that you are well motivated and enthusiastic about your chosen subject area

# Paragraph 2

- Describe your suitability
- What transferable skills have you gained from your current study?
- How are these relevant to your chosen degree subject? Unsure? Check out course entry profiles (EP's) at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)
- Has this study sparked your interest or affected your course choices at HE level?
- What have you particularly enjoyed?

# Paragraph 3

- Longer - term career objectives
- Even if these are broad, include an outline of the field in which you hope to work
- Detail any work experience, placement or voluntary work, particularly if relevant to your subject choices
- Identify additional skills that you have gained through part time/ voluntary work



# Paragraph 4

- The person behind the form
- Describe yourself to Admissions Tutors – your skills, strengths and personality- don't just list points
- Outline your academic/social achievements
- Describe your sporting and leisure interests
- Are you planning a gap year? If so, what are you planning to do?

# Top Tips

- Accuracy – spelling and grammar
- Attention to detail
- Ensure that it is all your own work, UCAS do check each statement for plagiarism
- Use entry profiles (EPs) if you are unsure what to include
- Don't repeat yourself
- Use positive and enthusiastic language
- Give examples
- Ask for help with editing/redrafting

# Review

- Explain your choice of subject
- Describe your suitability
- Longer term career objectives
- The person behind the form
- Take your time
- Make a start!