

Guide to...

Writing a personal statement

This is your time to show the Admissions Specialists that:

- You are suited to the course
- You are conscientious, hardworking and can stay the length of the course
- You have researched, and are dedicated to, your chosen course
- You will be able to adjust to a university environment.

75% academic, focusing on your chosen course

- Why have you chosen this subject?
- What particularly interests you about this subject?
- Where has this interest come from?
- Show your competence in the subject
- What independent reading or research have you done?

25% extra-curricular

- Relevant work experience
- Subject-related activities
- Career aspirations
- Unrelated activities.

Personal statement top tips...

1. **Use evidence** – show you'd be a great student by linking experience from your studies and other activities to the course.
2. **Be honest** – don't be tempted to exaggerate. Admissions specialists often refer to personal statements during interviews.
3. **Start early** – you'll probably redraft your statement several times before you're happy with it, so allow yourself plenty of time.
4. **Let friends and family read it** – they may have suggestions you haven't considered and can tell you whether it makes sense.
5. **Proofread it several times** – reading it out loud will help you to spot bad punctuation and messy wording.
6. **Use a simple structure** – such as the one shown below.
7. **Remember** – you only have 47 lines or 4,000 characters including spaces.

There's more advice on personal statements ucas.com/personalstatement

Flow structure

The four boxes are different paragraphs.

- Your introduction should introduce your interest in the course.
- The subject knowledge will expand and provide evidence of why you'll be good at the subject.
- Discuss any extra curricular activities that are relevant to your studies.
- Conclude with why you want to study to degree level, explaining how a degree will help you achieve your future plans and career aspirations.

