Writing your UCAS Personal Statement

Key Points

Why should we give you a place on our course?

This is the question admissions tutors will be asking themselves when they read your UCAS Personal Statement. This is your opportunity to answer that question by promoting your abilities, achievements and above all why you want to study your chosen subject.

What should you include in your UCAS Personal Statement?

Admissions tutors will be looking for evidence of your interest, understanding, commitment and motivation to study their subject. You only have 47 lines to do this so make every sentence count and convey as much information as you can. Avoid rambling on and repeating yourself. Remember admissions tutors will read hundreds of applications so make it an interesting and purposeful read for them.

How to construct your personal statement

You might want to split your UCAS Personal Statement into four paragraphs.

About the course

You need to explain what influenced your decision to study the course. This could be your passion for a particular subject, work experience you have undertaken or other personal interests you have. You also need to show your awareness of the course structure and content and how you feel it would benefit you by studying the course.

About the subject

Here you need to talk about your interest and academic ability in the subject. Illustrate this by writing about how you have developed your interest in the subject. This could be through further reading, attending taster days at university, relevant work experience talking to professionals, visits to museums and places of interest related to your subject choice. The key thing is to explain what you learnt from each of these experiences and how it enhanced your interest in the subject.
About Yourself

Admissions tutors are not only looking for intellectual ability they will also be looking for evidence of a well-rounded approach to life and what you contribute to and gain from the experience of university. Highlight your non-academic achievements and interests. This could be sporting, cultural, community, and artistic. Have you been involved in volunteering? What work experience or part time work have you done? You can also mention any positions of responsibilities you have held.

Conclusion

Use the last section to summaries exactly why you would be a good candidate for the course. What are you seeking to gain from the course and how it would link into your future education/career plans?

Keep re-reading and re-writing your personal statement! However many drafts it takes, make it perfect.

RESOURCES

www.ucas.com
www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk
www.studential.com/personalstatements
www.cife.org.uk/how-to-write-a-good-ucas-personal-statement
www.purepotential.org/university/the-ucas-form
www.thestudentroom.co.uk