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.