

How do I write a personal statement?



The purpose of a personal statement is for you to impress the university that you are applying to and to explain clearly why you want to follow your chosen degree course. A good personal statement will take some considerable time (sometimes months!) to complete. It will involve considerable thought and probably several re-writes. However, a good one can make the difference between achieving a strong university place or not.

The personal statement should be a detailed account of why you want a place on the degree course of your choice. It provides an opportunity to promote yourself and your suitability for the course, so needs to be a convincing and positive document.

How are personal statements used?

- To select applicants - using predicted grades, reference and personal statement
- To decide which candidates to interview and which to simply offer places to
- To test your understanding of the nature of the course

What should I include in my personal statement?

- Your reasons for choosing the course
- The background to your interest, including particular interests you have in your current studies
- Career aspirations if any
- Positions of responsibility – school and outside school
- Social, sporting, hobbies and other relevant interests and activities
- Any employment/ work experience/ voluntary work and core skills developed through work experience
- Reasons for deferred entry (if relevant) – and your expected activities while on your gap year