



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

MADE
FOR
EUNI

A photograph of two young women sitting at a desk, looking at a laptop screen. The woman on the right is wearing a beige knitted beanie and glasses. The woman on the left is wearing glasses and has her hair in a ponytail. The background is slightly blurred, showing a window and some papers on the desk.

WRITING YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT

The personal statement is an important part of your UCAS application.

The personal statement is all about **self-promotion**. This is your only opportunity in the UCAS application to demonstrate **who you are** and why you want to study your chosen course. It's your chance to describe your **ambitions, skills and experience** to university and college admissions staff.

This workbook is designed to help you think about information you could include in your personal statement, including tips from admission tutors at UWTSD.

Use the space provided to write down any thoughts and ideas you have as you go along.



YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT HELPS YOU STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD



Name:

UCAS user
name:

UCAS ID:



Before you start

Do your research

Chose a subject, course type and provider that's right for you.

To increase your chances of getting a place on a course, UCAS give you the option of applying to up to five courses at once, usually all in a similar subject so that your application is relevant to all of them.



Where can I find information?

- UCAS search tool
- University websites
- University prospectuses
- Open days
- Student blogs
- University league tables and surveys



Browse our A-Z of Undergraduate courses

Request more information and a prospectus.
Book yourself in for an Open Day.

www.uwtsd.ac.uk



- You can only write one personal statement, so don't mention a university or college by name.
- Check university and college websites to see what skills and qualities they would like you to have.
- Make a list of what you want to include.
- Length - up to 4,000 characters or 47 lines (including spaces and blank lines).
- Don't copy.
- No italics, bold, underlining or foreign characters.
- Start drafting early.

My course choices:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.



What to include in your personal statement?

The hardest part of the personal statement is getting started.

Consider what you want to include and what you want your chosen universities to know about you.



The Course

This is a good place to start...

Understanding why you want to study a course and being able to express this clearly is very important.

Answer the following questions openly and honestly.....

Why are you interested in the subject?

Are there particular elements you enjoy studying?

What do you wish to learn more about ?

Do your current studies relate to the course?

What appeals most to you about the course?

How will this course help you achieve your long-term goals?

Your Skills and Personal Qualities



Demonstrate you're a great candidate and you have the skills and qualities the universities are looking for. Every skill and quality you claim to have needs to be supported with evidence.

List your skills and qualities below with the examples.

Skills:

Examples:

Interests and Hobbies

Are your interests and hobbies related to the course?

Do your interests and hobbies demonstrate your skills and abilities?

Have you participated in activities that show your interest in the course?

"The strongest applicants are those who can link their extra-curricular activities to their proposed course of study"

ucas.com

Work Experience

Include details of relevant work experience, volunteer work...

link these with the skills you need for your course

My interests and hobbies :

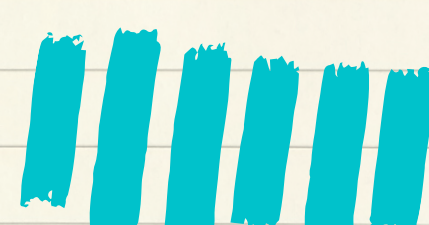


There is no set formula for a personal statement as you are writing about yourself and your experiences.



Ideas page

Use this page to jot down additional notes and ideas on what to include in your personal statement.



How to write your personal statement?

Structure

When writing your personal statement, make sure it flows and is easy to read. Most statements are written in an essay format, but you don't have to do yours like this.

- Introduction - start with an opening sentence that will encourage the reader to read on.
- Structure what you want to include in an order that's most relevant to what the universities/colleges are looking for.
- Conclusion - reinforce your commitment, enthusiasm and skills with a strong closing statement.

Language

Use formal language. You are trying to make a good first impression.

Use vocabulary that you are comfortable with.

Use language that makes you sound enthusiastic and portrays you as an interesting person.

Check your grammar, spelling and punctuation.



Tips

Top ten tips for writing your personal statement from admission tutors at UWTSO

1. Tell us what interests you about the course and how this interest developed.
2. Go into detail – what have you enjoyed about the subject during your current studies?
3. Do you read about the subject in your spare time? If yes, what and why was it interesting?
4. Tell us about relevant work experience.
5. What skills have you gained from your part-time job/work experience/current studies/hobbies?
6. Don't just list your skills – give examples of how they were gained and how you use them.
7. Keep linking back to the course/subject area.
8. Don't talk about things that aren't relevant.
9. Use spell check.
10. Be positive and sell yourself – tell us why you'd be perfect for the course.

Things to avoid

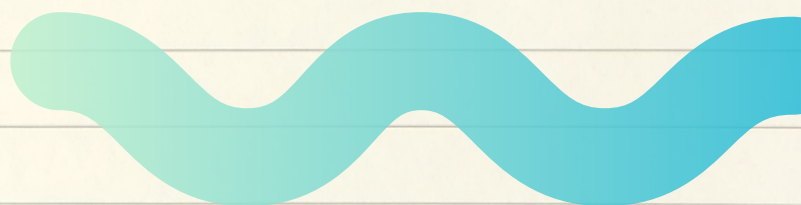
- Avoid sounding arrogant and pretentious.
- Avoid trying to be funny.
- Avoid vocabulary you are not familiar with.
- Avoid clichés e.g. 'I was born to be an actor'.
- Avoid lying and over exaggeration.
- Avoid using quotes that have no relevance.
- Avoid repetition.

Let's get started

- Write your first draft.
- Use the notes you've made to help you.
- Don't worry if it sounds disjointed, you have missed bits out or if it's too long/short. These can be corrected later.
- Before making changes, save a copy of your original statement so you can go back through things.
- Ask your family, friends, teachers and anyone else you think will be able to offer an opinion to read your statement.



Notes





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- **UCAS.com**