

Personal Statements

The personal statement: what admissions tutors want

Evidence of: your academic potential, commitment and curiosity for your chosen course.

85% focus on your suitability for your course, with evidence of going beyond class teaching and skills acquired.

Sources of Evidence

Taster/enrichment days attended

Wider reading/TEDs/lectures

EPQ planned

Competitions entered

Work experience (caring professions especially)

Pro-active involvement in events (Rob's Festival)

Skills acquired (research; organising; presenting)

Awards won (subjects, music, sport, arts

Responsibilities held (in and out of school)

The Personal Statement Structure

Four or five (separate!) paragraphs covering:

1. Why you are interested in the course
2. What you have done/read/considered that is relevant to your chosen study
3. The necessary skills you have developed
4. A brief summary of your aspirations

The Personal Statement Rules

4000 characters (about 47 lines) of 12 font text.

Must be original – “Copycatch” software is used.

Only one version allowed, across your choices.

Read in conjunction with your academic results
and school reference – don’t repeat!

Views of the Experts – Don't:

“Give little or no information on your reasons for studying a particular course”

“Use bland statements like ‘I am fascinated by science’ – instead, give examples where your interest was aroused”

“Use long-winded words to try to sound overly academic ”

Views of the Experts – Do:

“Make the first paragraph grab the attention of the reader, like the first two lines of a newspaper story”

“ Give clear information on the reasons why you want to do a particular course”

“Look at the course blogs to get a feel for what is happening and the key attributes needed”

Other helpful hints..

- Use of language – not a narrative
- Help your tutor to write theirs
- Must be seen, discussed and improved with your Tutor
(use of Google Classroom)



Getting Started

Using the suggested personal statement structure, note down all your relevant evidence to date to reveal if you can cover all necessary areas.

This will be the skeleton for your first draft.

Use the UCAS website

course.

What skills, qualities, and experience do I need?

ENTRY PROFILE

- You should be interested in and committed to the subject. You should show in your personal statement that you are curious to learn more about the ancient world. For example, have you done any independent reading about the ancient world? Do you enjoy visiting museums? Have you been to see plays or films about the ancient world? How is the course appropriate to your interests?
- We'll want to know that you have the ability to excel as an undergraduate. We will expect you to have 3 A Levels (or equivalent), and it is preferable that at least one of them is from the following subjects: Ancient History, Classical Civilisation/Studies, or History. Greek or Latin A Level is not required.
- The course will require independent work, and so your personal statement and reference should show that you are self-motivated and work hard. For example, do you participate in any extra-curricular activities, which require you to organise your time effectively and without supervision?
- Do you have a logical mind? We'll want to see evidence of clear thinking and understanding, and problem solving and analytical skills. For example, have you showed a logical and questioning attitude in school projects or in extracurricular activities?
- We are interested in your non-academic achievement, interests, and experience beyond the curriculum. For example, positions of responsibility, voluntary or paid work, especially where this provides evidence of teamwork. You should explain what skills you have gained.
- The personal statement should show that you can communicate effectively and write clear and correct English.

How to apply