

# Your Guide to Writing a Personal Statement

The personal statement is a key part of your UCAS application. You have a limited space to tell universities who you are, what you want to do, and why they should accept you.

Writing about yourself can be a difficult task, particularly if you don't have a lot of experience doing so. Don't worry - we're here to help!

This guide will get you started on your statement and take you through the process step-by-step.



## Before you begin

The personal statement is one of the final sections of your UCAS application. However, **you shouldn't leave it until the last minute**. Give yourself plenty of time to write.

Your personal statement must be **at least 1,000 characters** long, including spaces. **The maximum is 4,000 characters** or 47 lines, whichever comes first.

It's a good idea to write your statement in a separate document, make all the edits you want, and then **copy and paste** it into your application.

Plan out your **structure and key points** before you start writing, just like an essay. You can use this guide to decide what to include.

## 1. Introducing yourself



While you shouldn't start your introduction with "My name is...", it's vital to tell whoever's reading your application who you are. Start by answering these questions:

- **Why are you interested in studying your subject?**
- **What is it about university that appeals to you?**
- **Where do you hope a degree will take you?**

Include any relevant anecdotes and details about yourself that will make your application stand out. Has someone inspired you to study your chosen subject? Have you always dreamed of a particular career?

## 2. Skills & achievements

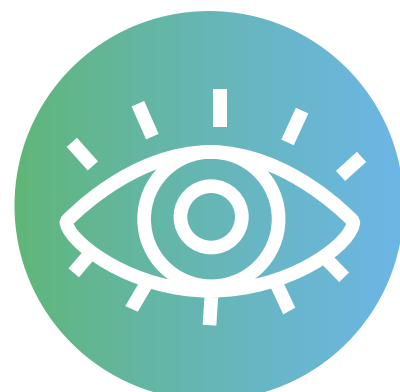


You have to demonstrate the things you're good at and provide examples to back it up. Include things like:

- **Any awards you've received.**
- **Hobbies or activities that build skills.**
- **Work experience and what that taught you.**
- **Volunteering or projects like Duke of Edinburgh, Step Together, or Young Enterprise.**

It's a good idea to take a look at the course(s) you're applying for. You should be able to pick out the qualities universities are looking for in students of that subject.

## 3. Final checks



There are a few dos and don'ts to make sure your personal statement is the best it can possibly be:

- **Do** proofread everything. A spellchecker might not pick up on every mistake so make sure your writing makes sense.
- **Don't** mention the names of any specific universities if you're applying to more than one. They all see the same application.
- **Do** have someone else read your statement before you submit it. A teacher or family member could have suggestions.
- **Don't** be tempted to copy someone else's writing. Your statement should be unique to you and similarities will be caught out.
- **Do** feel confident! If you take the time to really think about your statement, plan it out, and write to the best of your ability, then it's a job well done.