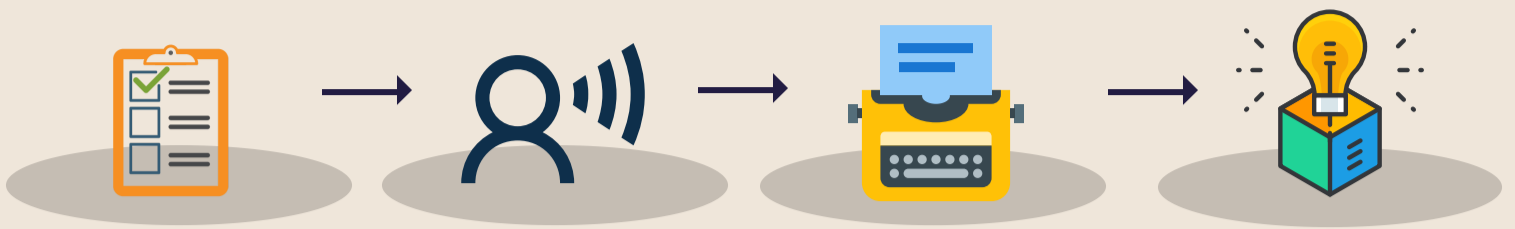


PREPARING THE UK PERSONAL STATEMENT

A Guide for Alumni

The personal statement is an opportunity for you to demonstrate your intellectual aptitude and passion for your chosen course(s) of study.



STEP 1: RESEARCH ON REQUIREMENTS

You can only write one personal statement; so avoid reference to any specific university or college. There is a limit of 4000 characters or 47 lines of text, spaces included. Paragraphing is preferred.

Be very familiar with the description of the intended course(s) of study. The courses you select should be similar across schools, for your statement to work.

In your statement, focus mainly on academic activities, as a demonstration of your passion for, ability in and understanding of the course(s) you are applying to. You may include your non-academic pursuits only if they are relevant to your course of study. Consider adhering to the 80-20 principle: 80% or more for academic coverage, 20% relevant non-academic attributes.



STEP 2: REFLECT ON YOUR EXPERIENCES



Your experiences should not just be limited to what you did in school. You should continue to demonstrate academic aptitude in the activities pursued post A-levels. This could be in the form of independent readings, courses taken, or in your work experience, for instance. From your time in school to now, how did you stretch yourself academically in your desired major(s), beyond the A-levels?

STEP 3: DRAFTING YOUR STATEMENT

Select relevant reflections and information for your statement. For your introduction, the following may be useful:

- What sparked my interest in this field?
- Why do I want to pursue it in university?

For each content paragraph:

- Focus on actual activities, done within and beyond school, which demonstrate academic ability and aptitude to pursue your chosen course.
- What relevant academic insights did you learn from all that has been accomplished? Have you demonstrated this in clear, succinct writing?
- For non-academic activities: Have you explained why the skills learnt are transferable to your major? (This is the 20%; only if relevant.)
- Tip: Ensure your time context is clear, particularly for activities done post A-levels.



End off with a simple conclusion, possibly reflecting on your aspirations/plans upon completing your degree or the UK experience you look forward to.

STEP 4: RETHINK WHAT YOU HAVE WRITTEN



- Through my range of activities, have I demonstrated aptitude for the course(s) I am interested in?
- Did I cite specific examples and showed understanding of the field?
- Have I demonstrated that my academic pursuits did not stop with the A-levels, but went beyond?
- Is everything that I have written relevant to my chosen course(s)?

TAKE NOTE OF THESE Dos & Don'ts

Dos

- Write your statement on your own.
- Write clearly and ensure there are no grammatical mistakes.
- Start early in planning & drafting.

Don'ts

- Exaggerate, generalise or laundry-list.
- Cram your statement with irrelevant information.
- Leave it to the last minute.

For additional reading:

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/how-write-ucas-undergraduate-personal-statement>