



# Personal statement guide

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## Tip 1:

## Starting your Personal Statement

First you should research the courses you are applying for, as the content you put into your Personal Statement will reflect the course. Moreover, be mindful that you can only send one Personal Statement to all of your chosen universities.

You should start your Personal Statement early as you will want plenty time to draft and refine it before the application deadline for your course. Get Friends and Family to read through it to give you feedback and things to improve on.

## Tip 1:

## What to include

UCAS recommends to answer these three questions:

1. Why do you want to study this course or subject?
2. How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?
3. What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is a helpful framework to follow but be careful from writing answers that is too formulaic and generic. You want to show your personality to show through your writing as that's what makes you unique. Writing in a reflective way is a good way at expressing those qualities while also interweaving your personality into your responses.



## Tip 3:

## Things to avoid

This list has been created using UCAS guidance, [linked here](#).

1. Avoid a cliché intro.
2. Don't use slang or humour.
3. Avoid writing in over-complicated language.
4. Do not plagiarise content.
5. Do not mention universities by name.
6. Avoid exaggerating extra-curricular activities.
7. Do not write informally.

## Tip 4:

## Questions checklist

Sourced from [here](#)

### Q1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

- ✓ **Showcase passion:** Clearly articulate what excites you about the subject and how your interest has evolved.
- ✓ **Align with career goals:** Explain how the course fits into your future aspirations.
- ✓ **Share personal experiences:** Include relevant experiences that sparked or nurtured your interest. You can also highlight responsibilities that have honed your time management, leadership, or problem-solving abilities.

### Q2: How have your qualifications and studies prepared you for this course?

- ✓ **Link skills to success:** Highlight specific skills gained from your academic journey that are pertinent to the course.
- ✓ **Highlight achievements:** Discuss academic accomplishments and how they've readied you for university-level study.
- ✓ **Reflect on learning:** Explain how particular subjects or projects have deepened your interest and preparedness.

### Q3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

- ✓ **Include super-curricular activities:** Mention relevant activities like work experience, volunteering, or related hobbies.
- ✓ **Demonstrate transferable skills:** Highlight skills gained from part-time jobs or extra-curriculars, such as leadership or teamwork.
- ✓ **Personal relevance:** Choose experiences that are meaningful and demonstrate commitment to the subject. You can also share how you've navigated financial, familial, or environmental obstacles.

