

Writing a University Personal Statement

Structure

- Paragraph 1: Introduction to my subject, the aspects I'm interested in and why
- Paragraph 2: What I have done related to my subject which wasn't on the UCAS form
- Paragraphs 3 and 4: work experience and activities I have done in school
- Paragraph 5: My interests and responsibilities outside of school
- Paragraph 6: My goal in going to university and closing comment

Do's of Your Personal Statement

What you want to study at university and why

- Specific aspects of the courses that interest you
- Examples of coursework you have completed
- Practical work you have enjoyed
- Things you have read related to the subject area
- Work experience or voluntary work in this area
- Conferences you have attended
- Personal experiences which lead to the decision to take this subject
- Where you hope a degree in this subject will lead

Experience that shows you are a reliable and responsible person

- Part-time job
- Business enterprise
- Community and charity work
- School committees
- Helping out at school events and open days
- Young Enterprise, World Challenge, Duke of Edinburgh award, Debating societies etc. and what you've gained from these experiences

Your interests and skills

- What you like to do in your free time
- Sport and leisure activities
- Subjects you study which are not examined
- Musical instruments you play
- Languages you speak
- Prizes you have won or positions achieved in your interests

Don'ts of Your Personal Statement

- Don't try to be funny or make jokes in your statement
- Don't start every sentence with I
- Don't include your hobbies and interests unless they are relevant
- Don't use vocabulary you don't normally use and just looked up in a dictionary
- Don't use famous quotes in your statement
- Don't repeat things already on your UCAS form
- Don't write a list of all your hobbies and interests without explaining them
- Don't lie or embellish the truth
- Don't say you are going to do something before you come to university
- Don't include boring phrases or hobbies which everyone does
- Don't take any political or religious viewpoints