GUIDE TO WRITING A PERSONAL STATEMENT

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What is a personal statement?

A personal statement is a piece of self-reflective writing to promote yourself and explain to the admissions team why you would be a good addition to their university.

There are three questions with a minimum of 350 characters required per question. There's a maximum limit of 4000 characters for the whole statement.

You'll need one personal statement to cover all five UCAS choices, so don't mention a university by name.

Personal statements are checked for plagiarism, so make sure it's your own work.

What are the questions?

1. **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**
   - Why are you interested in this course? Why do you want to study it at degree level?
   - Is there a book or subject expert doing great things that's sparked your interest?
   - What are your career ambitions?

2. **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**
   - How do your A-Levels or BTECs link to your chosen course?
   - What independent reading or research have you done? e.g. academic content
   - What other course-related activities have you taken part in? e.g. taster sessions, field trips.

3. **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**
   - What additional activities do you take part in?
   - How could these show skills that are relevant for studying at university level?
   - Work experience, volunteering, hobbies.

Personal Statement Top Tips

Be specific
give examples and evidence to support your statement. Be sure to check dates, names and technical language.

Be honest
don't be tempted to exaggerate or lie.

Start early
you'll probably want to redraft or edit your statement several times before you're happy with it, so give yourself plenty of time.

Ask for advice
speak to your teachers and careers advisers if you're stuck. Ask your friends and family to read your statement, they might catch things you've missed.

Proof-read
read your statement out loud so you can check the flow and make sure it all makes sense. Make sure you check your spelling, grammar and punctuation!