

✦ Personal statements

Personal statements

- The most important part of the application
- A tool that universities use in their admissions process
- Helps students to distinguish themselves from others with similar grades
- A chance to show off talents, achievements and writing style
- Limited amount of space, keep it short and snappy
- Must be positive
- Show an interest and enthusiasm for the subject

Starting points / questions to ask

Ask the following questions

- What makes you unique?
- Why do you really want to study this subject/course?
- Why should the university choose you over other candidates?
- What are your career aspirations?
- Why have you chosen to study particular subjects in the past?
- What do you hope to gain from university?

Make a list of achievements

- All work experience / part-time jobs / voluntary work
- Interests and hobbies inside school
- Interests and hobbies outside school
- Involvement in clubs / societies / teams
- Think about skills gained from achievements

Advice from admission tutors

DO

- Mention responsibility with examples of duties undertaken
- Be reflective – explain why
- Mention authors/writers and artists when talking about specific research and background reading
- Spell check and read through with teachers and parents
- Be clear and concise – admissions tutors don't have time to read between the lines
- Be enthusiastic about the course

DON'T

- Mention a specific institution unless only applying to one
- Talk about your A level course syllabus in detail
- Plagiarise – UCAS now have a filter and will know
- Lie or exaggerate
- Try to be a comedian or be over-confident about achievements

