

Why we ask you to register

- Evaluating how many students we have worked with and how many have gone on to university
- To stay in touch about opportunities and deadlines

Personal Statement Check-up Workshop

Education Support Unit



Getting the balance right

Showing your academic suitability as well as your personality

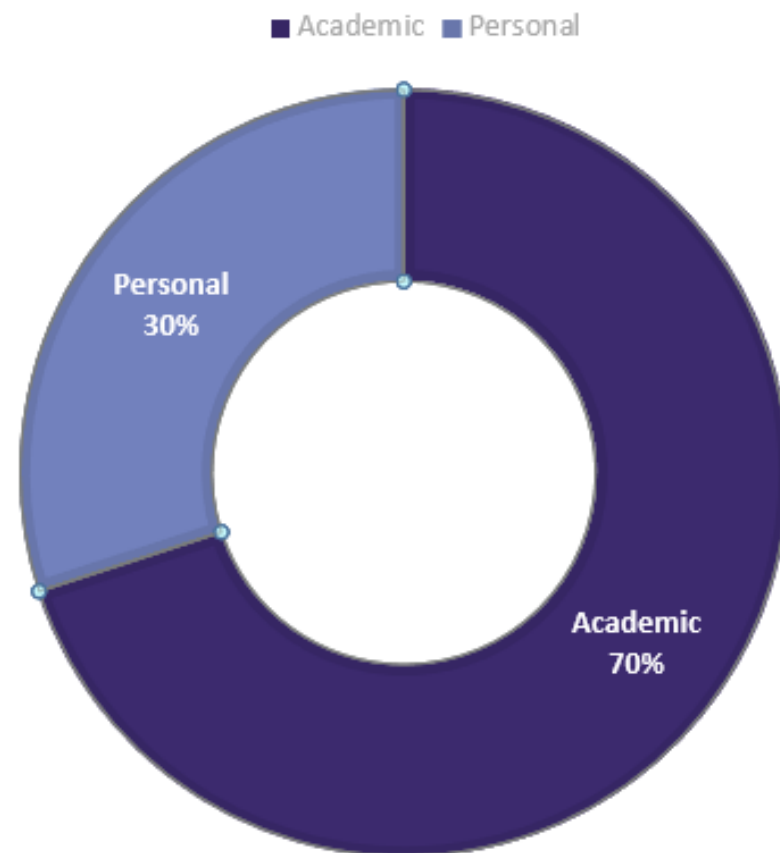
So... how do I start?

With the course...

Admissions tutors are looking for:

- Your passion for the subject
- That you understand what studying the subject at university involves
- That you have the skills/the potential to study it at university level

Does this come across in your statement?



How do you show your passion for the subject?

Does your personal statement tell the person who is reading it:

- Where your interest in the subject started? *Be careful to avoid clichés here... ‘I have wanted to be a... my whole life’*
- What you love about it? If you are already studying it, do you had a favourite unit? Which topics have you enjoyed most and why?
- About anything extra you have done to develop your knowledge e.g. reading, documentaries, lectures, MOOCs or TED Talks? *Don’t just drop theses things in or list them, highlight something that you saw or heard that you found particularly interesting and why.*

Come along to our Twilight Lectures
More information [here](#)

How do you show that you know what studying the subject at university entails?

Research

Psychology

Research courses
using university
websites or
prospectuses

Note where you have shown
you have knowledge of or an
interest in these topics and
where you have show these
skills previously and have
started to develop them

Note the different
topics you will study
and the skills you will
need to be successful
on the course

See our full range of
programmes [here](#)

How do you show that you have the potential to study a subject at university level?

Does your personal statement:

- Show an understanding of the academic skills needed to complete the course? E.g. research and essay-writing skills
- Talk about where you have started to develop or demonstrated these skills in your current or most recent programme of study?



- What course(s) you're interested in and why.
 - Demonstrate understanding of course(s) and how it will be taught
- Include background reading/preparation
 - new policies, guideline, innovations, open/taster days, summer schools
- Academic and independent learning skills
 - essay writing, academic reading, note-taking, presentations, research, revision, time management
- Relevant skills, attributes and experience
 - (e.g. caring for others/vulnerable groups; business start-up)
- Demonstrate understanding of profession (if relevant)
 - challenges you might face and ability to cope
- Future career goals
- What you do to de-stress?
- Summaries

70%
to
80%

20%
to
30%

Showing your personality

Does your personal statement:

- Give an insight into who you are as a person?
- Have you mentioned anything that you do when you are not studying?
 - trips
 - part-time work
 - volunteering
 - responsibilities at home
 - hobbies
 - future plans/career goals



Even when it's personal, it's still about the course!

It may be that your course requires particular skills or qualities that can only really be assessed in the Personal Statement, for example:

- Social skills/wider involvement with people
- Particular work experience (teaching, healthcare placements)
- Team work
- Sporting/musical ability

Does your personal statement demonstrate that you have non-academic skills that are important for your course?



Making a good impression

Make sure you are remembered for the right reasons

Be original

Have you used one of the most common opening phrases?

1. From a young age I have (always) been [interested in]...
2. For as long as I can remember I have...
3. I am applying for this course because...
4. I have always been interested in...
5. Throughout my life I have always enjoyed...
6. Reflecting on my educational experiences...
7. Nursing is a very challenging and demanding [career/profession/course]...
8. Academically, I have always been...
9. I have always wanted to pursue a career in...
10. I have always been passionate about...

Be yourself

- Have you used your own words? *UCAS have some of the best plagiarism software*
- Have you used plain English? *Admissions Tutors are not looking for the longest sentences or the fanciest words, they are looking for clear and focused communication.*
- Have you been honest? *You might have to talk about it at interview!*

Have you tried the Hemingway App?
It is a tool for simplifying your sentences to make them clearer for your reader.

Show you care

What is your impression of this applicant?

What gives you this impression?

Applicant to BA(Hons) Politics and International Relations

I have always really liked politic's and I enjoy my lessons a a lot. It is important to our world and people's everyday lives. I watch Question Time every Thursday and get really involved in the topics being discussed. For example, the number of people using foodbanks in modern Britain is shocking and politicians should do something about it, especially when there are multi-national corpirations who are not paying their taxis. In relation to international relations, I am very interest in the relationship between the USA and North Korea and how that will develop after Trump's meeting with Kim Jong-un. I hope to go into politics after I finish at uni and have participated in debates in lessons, which I really like.

Repetitive

Spelling

Informal

Show you care

Punctuation and Grammar

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Attention to detail and a high level of written English will be valuable for any degree.

Does you personal statement show you have taken time and care over it?

Getting started

If you still need to get started, ask yourself:

1. Why do you want to study [subject] and how can you demonstrate your interest in it?
2. Why do you think you are suitable for this course?
3. What relevant skills and/or achievements do you have or need to develop?
4. How can you evidence your academic and independent learning skills (other than exam results)?
5. What relevant work or voluntary experience do you have [or should get] that will enhance your application?
6. What are your career and academic goals?
7. What are your hobbies and interests and how is this relevant to your application?

Answering these questions will give you the content for your personal statement. You can re-work the structure and refine, but just get the ideas down for now.

Self-assess your personal statement

Personal Statement Checklist	Yes	No	Partially	Ideas for improvement
Does your passion for the subject come across clearly?	✓			
Does my personal statement show that I understand the skills needed for the subject I am applying for?			✓	Research the skills needed and match to what I have done before.
Have I shown that I have both the academic and non-academic skills needed to be successful on my chosen course?				
Have I shown the relevance of the activities I do outside of the classroom to my chosen course?				
Is my personal statement roughly proportioned 70:30 between academic and personal suitability?				

Self-assess your personal statement

Personal Statement Checklist	Yes	No	Partially	Ideas for improvement
Does my personal statement have a clear structure and flow from one point to the next?	✓			
Is my personal statement easy to read?				
Is my personal statement original (it doesn't repeat words or phrases and it is all in my own words)?				
I could expand on any of the points at interview				
Does my personal statement have accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar?				

Be inspired





Education Support Unit

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**CHANGE
STARTS
HERE**

*Up
next...
Open
Day*



/GreenwichUniversity



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