



# Writing a successful **personal statement**

The personal statement is your opportunity to impress your chosen universities and to share your passion and enthusiasm for the course/subject you're applying for. It's a chance for you to stand out from the crowd and say why you would be a great fit for their course/subject.

**4000**  
**characters**

Overall limit including spaces

**3 questions**

Each with a minimum of  
350 characters,  
including spaces



## A chance for universities **to learn about you**

Show genuine interest in what you're applying for and evidence the relevant skills and experiences you've developed, both at school/college and during your spare time!



# The personal statement *questions*

## Question 1

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

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate why it's a good fit for you and your future goals.

Examples of what you might include here are:

- Why does the course/subject interest you?
- What are your specific areas of interest?
- Your future career aspirations and how this subject/course will help you to achieve these.

## Question 2

### How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight how they will help you to succeed on your chosen course/subject.

Examples of what you might talk about here are:

- What have you done in school/college to develop your interest in your chosen subject area?
- What strengths and skills have you got that will help you to succeed on your chosen course?
- Do you have any relevant educational achievements that you're proud of?

## Question 3

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

Here, you have the opportunity to share any other activities you've undertaken outside of your formal education that further demonstrate your suitability for the chosen course/subject.

Examples of what you might include here are:

- Have you gained any in-person or virtual work experience? If so, how has this benefitted you?
- Have you faced any personal life experiences or responsibilities which have helped you to develop essential qualities for your chosen course/subject?
- Think about your hobbies and extra-curricular activities —these are also a great way to showcase why you would make a great student!

## *Writing* techniques

There are many ways to start your answers and talk about your different skills. However, the key is to demonstrate what you know and what you've learnt by providing evidence.

### THE A.B.C rule

#### Activity

This is something you've done.

#### Benefit

This is what you gained or learnt from the experience.

#### Course

This is how it relates back to your course/subject of choice, or, if relevant, the particular career your course leads to (e.g. social work).



## *Hints* and *tips*

Write what comes naturally, using vocabulary that you feel comfortable with.

Read it out loud to friends and family, and remember to check spelling and grammar.

Don't just state what you're interested in: give evidence to demonstrate your passion.

Don't just list achievements and skills. Pick out the best examples of how and when you gained these skills.

If using ChatGPT for inspiration, avoid lying or plagiarising.



## Clichés to avoid for your opening sentence



*I am applying for this course because...*

*I have always been interested in...*

*For as long as I remember I have always been...*

*From a young age I have always been interested in...*

*Throughout my life I have always enjoyed...*

