

UCAS DAY TWO

**The PERSONAL STATEMENT**

The personal statement is your opportunity to explain to an admissions tutor why they should select YOU over the other applicants. It gives you the chance to showcase your interest and enthusiasm for your chosen subject, and highlight why you would make the ‘ideal student.

A personal statement is uploaded to your UCAS form. It can be a maximum of 47 lines / 4,000 characters (this includes spaces) – this is not a lot and means you have to be selective and succinct.

A good personal statement is normally split into FOUR sections;

**1. The OPENING**

* *Explain why you want to study the course*
* *Explain what initially piqued your interest in the subject*
* *Try to stand out but don’t be too wacky*
* *Be careful of quotes, they often seem a little contrived*
* *Don’t use ‘For as long as I can remember…’*

**2. ACADEMIC INTERESTS**

* *This should make up approximately* ***75-80% of the statement***
* *Explain what A Levels do you do and how they link to the course you are applying for*
* *Explain the academic skills have you developed that will ensure you will be a success on the course. Explain how you have developed these*
* *Explain anything else have you done that shows your interest in the course / career (NB. This is not just work experience; it could be attending lectures, books read, societies, etc) - Be specific and show off!*
* *You could link to specific modules / content on your course but make sure you don’ isolate any choices*
* *Do not make lists or general points!*

**4. The ENDING**

* *Finish the statement off - make the admissions tutor remember you!*
* *Aim for TWO sentences; try to avoid clichés*
* *Emphasise ‘****teachability’****, Motivation and enthusiasm*

**3. PERSONAL / EXTRA CURRICULAR**

* *Likely to be a short-ish section*
* *Explain what you have done outside of the classroom and how is this relevant to the course / uni*
* *You could mention hobbies, interests, sports, Gap Year plans but LINK THESE TO THE COURSE / UNIVERSITY IN GENERAL*
* *Think ‘skills’ and ‘qualities’ (e.g. self motivation, team work, ability to work under pressure, ability to cope with high demands…) not just a list of achievements*

**Mr B and Mr G’s TOP TIPS!**

1. Research the courses for which you are applying thoroughly; make sure you understand the subject in detail AND what admissions tutors are looking for in students. Say why YOU are the ideal student!
2. PLAN it first! Don’t just start writing!
3. SHOW DON’T TELL! Don’t just list your achievements – explain how they changed you as a person, how they contribute to your love of the subject, why they made you want to pursue a particular career, etc…
4. Don’t be negative; try to see any failures as ‘learning experiences’ and say what you have learned as a result!
5. Be honest; only include what you know and are confident about discussing
6. Be specific and display precise knowledge; never be vague
7. Try to sound interesting and interested, but don’t overdo it, gush or come across as arrogant. Avoid clichés and ‘stock’ phrases.
8. Organise your material clearly and logically; express ideas succinctly (don’t waffle)
9. Don’t state the obvious or repeat yourself. Or state the obvious or repeat yourself.
10. Consider speeling, apostrophe’s & grammmer (mistakes are irritating and don’t reflect well on you…!). Dnt U use S/hand.
11. Don’t misuse words in an attempt to look clever: your personal statement needs to be clear as well as reflecting the way YOU communicate – don’t try to be something you’re not. And don’t even think about plagiarising…

**START TODAY, COMPLETE OVER THE SUMMER!!!**

***Now use the following pages to plan your personal statement***





OPENING



ACADEMIC INTEREST



PERSONAL / EXTRA CURRICULAR



ENDING

**Also see** [**www.durhamschoolheandcareers.co.uk**](http://www.durhamschoolheandcareers.co.uk) **for further advice and guidance on writing a personal statement.**