Personal Statement Guide

A personal statement should:

- Portray your character, knowledge, experience and ambition for the course.
- Evidence relevant skills.
- Link your academic, extra-curricular and other experiences to your chosen area of study.

The personal statement is broken down into 3 sections:
Section 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?
Section 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?
Section 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

Remember that:

- There is a 350 character minimum for each section.
- All 3 questions have an equal weighting!

UCAS:
If you don't know where to start, have a look at the personal statement guides on UCAS. There are lots of helpful tips and examples available for free.

https://www.ucas.com/applying/applying-to-university/writing-your-personal-statement

Section 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.
You may want to consider:

- What are your motivations for wanting to study this course?
- What is your knowledge of this subject area?
- How might studying this course help you to achieve your future goals?

Top tips:

- Read the course description and identify key skills and areas of interest.
- Reflect on key moments/experiences that inspired your interest.
- Be specific in your responses e.g. a specific book, topic, or event.

Section 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to talk about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area. You may want to consider:

- How your studies or training relate to your chosen course(s) or subject area
- What relevant or transferable skills you have that make you a great candidate
- Any relevant educational achievements (Not your grades as these will be included elsewhere)

Top tips:

- Be specific and reflect on your experiences.
- Show how you've gained your skills and how this relates to your chosen course.
- Link academic studies to the course or subject you want to study.

Section 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. You may want to consider:

- Have you experienced any work experience, employment, or volunteering?
- Do you want to share any personal life experiences or responsibilities?
- Do you have any hobbies and any extracurricular or outreach activities?

Top tips:

- Reflect on the skills you've gained from your experiences.
- Show how the experiences link to your chosen degree or university-level study.
- Focus on the impact of the experience, rather than over-explaining what the experience was.