

Writing Your Personal Statement

For many UK University applications, students are asked to explain their academic interests, preparation and motivation. The format varies according to the level of study and university. UCAS undergraduate applications now use three structured Personal Statement questions, while postgraduate and research applications may use different statement formats.

What your Personal Statement should cover

For UCAS undergraduate applications, the three questions ask why you want to study the course or subject, how your qualifications and studies have prepared you, and what you have done outside formal education to prepare and why these experiences are useful.

Be specific about what interests you and why you want to study the subject further. Use relevant schoolwork, academic projects or research to demonstrate your preparation. Extracurricular activities, volunteering and work experience can also provide useful evidence when you explain what you learned and how the experience relates to your proposed studies.

Looking towards the future

Universities may also be interested in what you hope to achieve through your studies. Your future career or academic plans do not have to be completely fixed, but explaining your ambitions can demonstrate purpose and motivation.

For postgraduate and research applications, universities may request a more traditional statement or other written material. Always check the requirements and format specified by the individual university and course.

Keep it original and personal

Your answers must remain your own work and accurately reflect your experiences, interests and ambitions. Avoid copying examples. Artificial intelligence can assist with checking clarity or structure, but it should not replace your own ideas, experiences or voice.

Clear, straightforward writing is more important than trying to impress with complicated vocabulary. Tell your own story in a natural but appropriately formal manner.

Principle	Approach
Be original	Write in your own words and avoid copying examples
Be clear	Prioritise clarity over complicated language
Be personal	Explain your own experiences, motivation and ambitions
Use British English	Avoid American spellings
Keep an appropriate tone	Avoid slang and colloquial expressions
Check your work	Seek feedback and proofread carefully

Getting the final version right

Before submitting your Personal Statement responses, ask someone you trust to review your draft. Check the structure, spelling and grammar carefully and make sure the final version accurately represents you.

WorldStudentAdvisors helps students review and improve their Personal Statement responses, while ensuring that the student's experiences, ideas and motivation remain their own.

The Key Message

Your Personal Statement responses should tell your story in your own words. Explain why you want to study the subject, demonstrate how your studies have prepared you and show how relevant experiences have contributed to your interest and readiness for the course.

Requirements and formats vary between universities and levels of study, so always check what is required. Above all, keep your responses original, clear, personal and carefully proofread.

Disclaimer: This information is provided in good faith and was believed to be accurate at the time of publication. Fees, dates, entry requirements, visa regulations and other information may change. Students should check current requirements before making any financial or study commitments.