

My UCAS personal statement

What to include

About the subject and course

- Why I've chosen the course
- Why the subject interests me
- My suitability for the course
- How my current or previous studies relate to the course(s) I've chosen
- Experience and understanding of the subject
- Any activities that demonstrate my interest in the course

Why I want to go to university or college

Future plans of how I want to use the knowledge and experience that I'll gain

What I want from the future

- Give evidence of the skills I have that are required to study my subject or to get the occupation I want
- Evidence of my academic insight and enthusiasm
- Evidence showing my understanding of what is required to study the course

Evidence

Special attributes

- Attributes that make me interesting, special and unique
- Positions of responsibility that I've held both in and out of school
- How would I be an asset to the university or college?

Achievements I'm proud of

Hobbies, interests that demonstrate my skills and abilities

Non-accredited skills and achievements

If I'm a mature student

- Say what I've done since leaving school
- If I've had a variety of jobs and experiences that are relevant, consider sending a detailed CV direct to my university and college choice(s)
- Demonstrate how I will cope with the academic work
- Critically evaluate my experiences, matching them to my chosen course requirements

If I'm an international student

- Say why I want to study in the UK
- Give evidence on how I could successfully complete a higher education course in English: say if any of my studies have been assessed in English
- Give examples of using my communication skills

Technicalities

Length: Up to 4,000 characters or 47 lines of text (including spaces or blank lines) (approximately 600 words)

Remember, there is only one personal statement, regardless of whether I apply for one or five courses

The personal statement must be my own work and not copied from another source.

Presentation and style

- Show my enthusiasm and commitment
- Make it interesting
- Check my spelling and grammar

Preparation

- Details of jobs, placements, work experience, voluntary work
- Concentrate on aspects relevant to my chosen course
- Explain why an experience or activity makes me an excellent candidate for the course

Check uni and college websites and Course Search for the criteria and qualities they want me to have

- Create a list of ideas
- Start drafting it early
- Ask people for their feedback

- Organise it into a logical structure
- Introduction: Write an opening sentence that will encourage the reader to read on
- Conclusion: reinforce my commitment, enthusiasm and skills suited to university or college life and study