

My UCAS personal statement

What to include

Why I want to go to university or college

- 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

About the subject and course

What I want from the future

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

Evidence

- 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

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

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

Work

- 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