

**MAKE
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HAPPEN**

A GUIDE TO WRITING YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT



A personal statement can be broken down into 5 sections

1 Introduction

Why do you want to study your chosen course? What interests you about the subject? What aspirations do you have to study at university?

2 Academic achievement, current studies e.g. A2's and BTEC's

Write about your academic achievements and what academic knowledge and skills have you gained that will prepare you for university.

3 Work or Uni Experience/ Volunteering/Employment

Write about the skills you have gained at work experience, voluntary opportunities or employment and how they have prepared you to study at university level.

TOP TIP

This section may be bigger if you are applying for Medicine or Veterinary Sciences.

4 Extra-curricular activities and awards

Mention other achievements and extracurricular activities e.g. First Aid or Duke of Edinburgh award.

5 Conclusion

A brief summary. Why should you be chosen on the course.



Only 1 detail needed for each activity

You can go into more detail about key areas and ideas

You can go into more detail and give a specific example



Making a start. Why do you want to study your chosen subject? (1)

Activity 1

What subject do you want to study at university?

When did you become interested in studying the course?

Why does this subject interest you?

EXAMPLE

1

During my A Levels, and through attending University summer schools, I have discovered many new areas of Biology that have inspired me to explore this subject further at degree level. In particular I have become fascinated by cell biology and what you can learn about a cell through studying it under the microscope. For example, I have enjoyed studying the process of mitosis by observing the chromosomes in each stage and using staining techniques, which can highlight areas such as the cytoplasm.

Making a start. Why do you want to study your chosen subject? (2)

Activity 1 (Continued)

What have you learnt that has inspired you to study this subject further?

Why do you think you're suitable for the course(s)? Do you have any particular skills and experience that will help you to succeed on the course(s)?

Have you taken part in any other activities that demonstrate your interest in the course(s)?

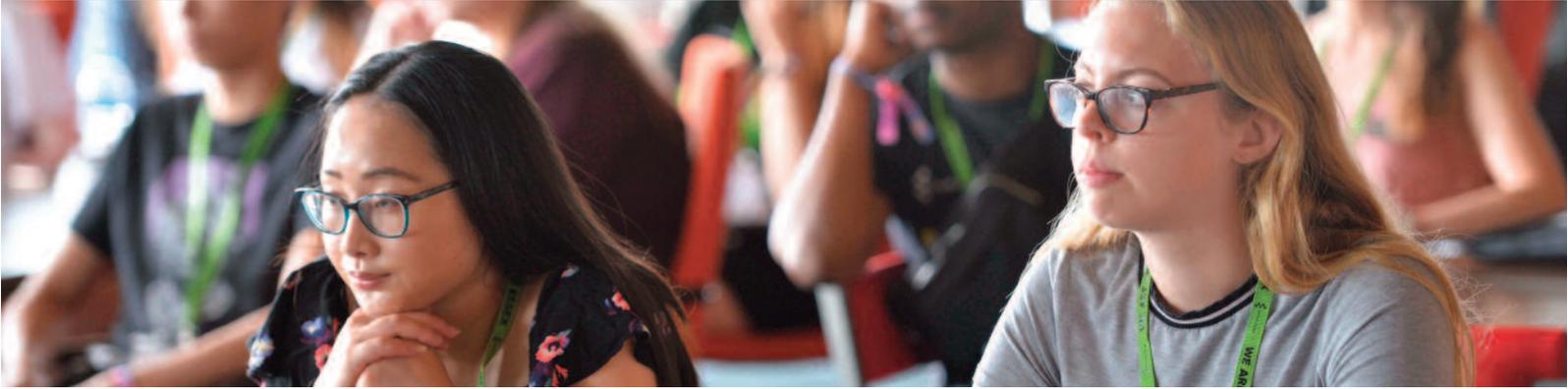
EXAMPLE

2

Analysing sources against others is one of the key reasons I want to develop my study for History further. The contradictions and contrasting accounts of historical events really interests me and I enjoy assessing the validity. My interest stemmed from studying the contradictory sources from the superpowers USSR and USA during the cold war. For example, Kennan's Long Telegram (February 1946) disclosed from a US perspective that the soviets wanted to expand and must be contained. The Novikov Telegram (September) responded by mirroring Kennan from a Soviet point of view. The judgement is dependent on the author.

Course-related activities

Work Experience / Uni Experience / Volunteering / Employment



Activity 3

1. What have you learnt from taking part in course related activities that are relevant to your chosen course? E.g. work experience, university summer school, campus visits, employment.
2. You can focus on one specific part that you enjoyed the most. E.g. a particular lecture you attended.
3. Can you go into further detail about the skills you learnt and parts that really interested you?

Course-related activity

Specific part that you found interesting

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Extra- curricular activities



Activity 4

1. What extra-curricular activities have you taken part in?
2. What general skill did you demonstrate?

Extra-curricular activities

Skills demonstrated

Extra-curricular activities	Skills demonstrated

EXAMPLE

I completed my Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award. I developed skills such as leading a team and planning. This was demonstrated when I led the group and took charge in reading the map and planning our path. I compete my horse in my riding club regularly throughout my A levels as well as having a part time job in a shop. I balance these commitments as well as my studies and have learnt to manage my time effectively.



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