



UCAS Application Top Tips





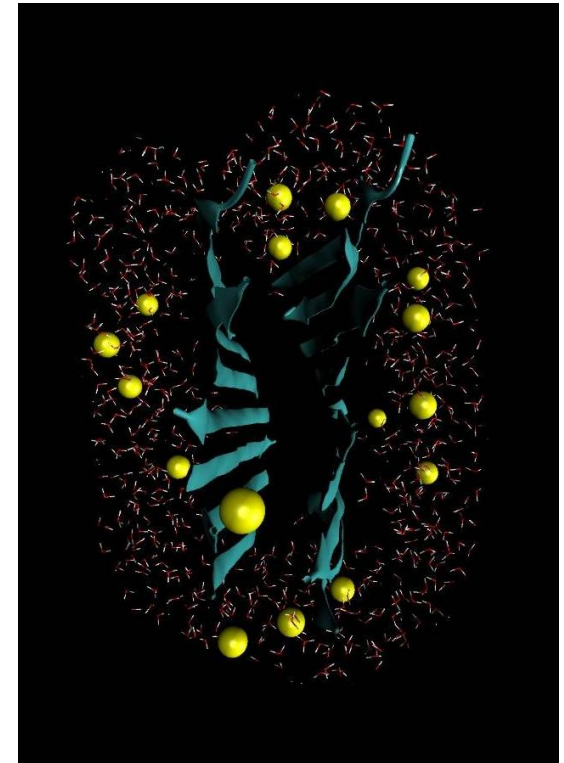
Personal Statements

- Personal statements are useful as they let us see your other qualities. The more competitive the subject is you want to study, the more important they become.

Who reads them ?

- Admissions tutors for the course you are applying to
- Academic members of staff.

Try to put yourself in their shoes - they spend most of the rest of the time researching and teaching.





How much space do I have?

- Not a lot!

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[Welcome](#) > Personal Statement

Your personal statement must be written in English (however, if you are applying only to Welsh universities and colleges, it may be written in Welsh).

After pasting in text, click 'save' before doing any editing as some of the original formatting may be lost. Only text up to the character limit will be saved. You must preview your personal statement before you can mark this section as complete.

You have used 0 of 47 lines based on the preview and 0 of 4000 characters.

47 lines
4000 characters



How to structure your statement



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- Give your statement a **start** a **middle** and an **end**
- State what subject you wish to study
- Why you are interested in the subject
- Relevant skills / experiences / activities that confirm your interest
- Tell us what else you enjoy doing





THE START - how do I open?

- Express your **PASSION** in the very first line!
- How did you get interested in your chosen subject?
- Who and/or what inspired you?





The Middle

- What interests you in the subject/course?
- How have you developed your interest (travel, visits, lectures, meetings, RSC membership)?
- Evidence of wider reading/activities beyond the A-level syllabus





Work Experience

For some subjects (such as medicine) evidence of relevant work/voluntary experience is necessary but for most others you can use your work experiences to show:

- What you have achieved.
- How you worked with and/or managed others.
- How you overcame difficulties.
- What you learned as a result of doing it; especially about YOU!





Activities

- Tell us about some of the other passions in your life – hobbies/pastimes

What do you get from these, can you use them to show that you are :

- A team member
- Not afraid to try new things
- An organiser
- Someone who likes helping people

Do you excel in other activities such as music, sport etc?



THE END – how do I finish?



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- Tell us what you want to get out of university
- Tell us a little of where you see yourself after university





Writing your statement

Write your statement outside of the UCAS form where you can use spell checking software etc then paste it in.

Don't forget to:

- Read through your statement to check for factual correctness
- Read through again as an imagined "Admissions Tutor"
- Have a friend proof-read for grammar, context, typos
- Take advice and improve your statement as you think best
- Only put it into the UCAS form when you are completely happy and then check it again.





Things to avoid

- Overt humour rarely works – particularly when the admissions tutors have 300 forms to read!
- Use proper sentences, paragraphs and grammar. An inability to punctuate sentence's (sic) reflects badly.
- i hve actually seen applicashuns wrtn in txt spk i don't thnk u shud do this 😊



Creating the correct impression...what is your e-mail?!



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First Name *Anthony* Last Name *Applicant*

E-mail: *drinkandpartytilludrop@clubbinganimals.com*

Personal Statement:

I have been passionate about all forms of science since I first discovered air was made up of different molecular components....

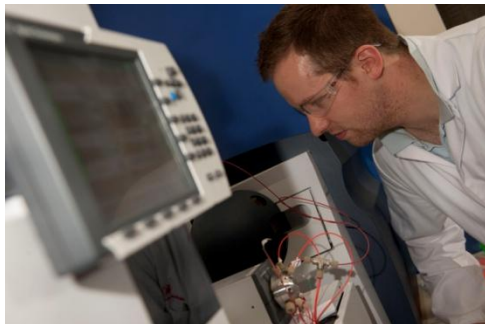
In my spare time I volunteer at a local homeless shelter and regularly take part in charity fundraising events. I am active in school politics and the debating society. Outside school I particularly like literature and enjoy reading the works of Dostoevsky and Tolstoy in their original Russian forms





How do we use the statement

- We use it to assess your motivation for the course
- We use it to help see if you have the personal qualities that have made other students on the course a success.
- We also use it as a framework for interviews and can also use it to help match candidates with interviewers where they share a common interest.





Interviews

In science interviews we want to see how people think!

- It can seem stressful but try to relax. Remember you wouldn't have been invited for interview if you were not as good as all the other people there on the day.
- We are using the interview to find out about you - help us to do this!





Interviews

- Most interviews start with a general question to get you talking – eg where have you travelled from
- As an interviewer the worst thing to deal with is someone that wont speak. You may be nervous but try to get the conversation going.
- Be ready for questions like Why chemistry? Why Leeds? What do you have to offer the course?
- In technical interview questions just try to answer the question as best as you can. The wrong answer or asking for some clarification is better than an instant “I don’t know”





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Good luck with your application!

