

UCAS

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**APPLYING FOR ENTRY IN 2020**

*Universities and Colleges Admissions Service*

**The personal statement**

Post MES and UCAS...

188 students

**6main2**

**There are 241 of you!**

**Applications list**

Maiden Erlegh School

**68 have started UCAS applications**

The UCAS logo is displayed in a white trapezoidal box with a thin grey border. The letters 'UCAS' are in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'U' and 'A' are black, while the 'C' and 'S' are red. The 'A' is stylized with a red triangle pointing upwards.

UCAS

**Failing to prepare  
is  
Preparing to fail**

**University, Apprenticeship, Work**

They do not read your personal statement

**FALSE**

They read all personal statements

**FALSE**

Do your research – however

Looking for a reason to accept not reject.

- Some courses use it other than the predicted grades the Personal Statement is the starting point.
- If 2 candidates have the same grades then a strong Personal Statement could mean the difference between getting an offer or not.
- If at confirmation you have slipped a grade the Personal Statement might be looked at to help the admissions tutor make a decision. Even if not looked at originally

The Personal Statement is a chance for you to:

- Promote yourself to admissions tutors
- Stand out amongst the applications
- The only individual 'bit'

What should the structure look like?

Your personal statement should be at least 75% academic and directed towards the course.

The rest is about you as a person.

Admissions tutors are looking for reasons to accept you onto the course NOT reject you.

# Consider 3 main issues

Why do I want to study this course? –

Provide evidence of:

- Reasons for choosing course
- Research into course or profession
- Interest in and understanding of the subject area:  
note not all courses with the same title are the same
- An understanding of the course/profession
- Demonstration of your research and justify your reasoning.



## Consider 3 main issues

**What can I offer to this course?** – your experiences around the course and how they have prepared you.

### Work Experience and Job

they are expecting to see you comment on your work experience and job and **how** they have prepared you for this course and university life.

## Consider 3 main issues

How do your other interests support and complement your studies?

What have you gained and how have they developed you as a person.

**Not just a list**

Eg coaching, teamwork, drama groups, musical skills  
DofE, community volunteering, religious activities.

# Other issues

What you have gained from your a level subjects

Your potential to study the course

Gap Year – what are your plans?

## A good personal statement is:

- 4000 characters/47 lines
- Well structured with **good use of English**
- Not just accurate but fluent and logically expressed
- Laid out clearly eg with **paragraphs**
- CHECK IT.
- THEN CHECK IT AGAIN!

# WHAT MAKES A STRONG PERSONAL STATEMENT?

- Enthusiasm
- Natural and honest
- Personal and genuine interest
- Researched courses
- Wider reading
- Reflection and analysis – *‘It’s not what you’ve done but how you think about what you’ve done’.*
- Show don’t tell

# WHAT MAKES A WEAK PERSONAL STATEMENT?

- Omits why they want to study the subject/profession
- Demonstrates poor understanding of the subject
- Fails to show experience or awareness of qualities / skills required for the chosen profession
- Irrelevant content
- Poorly written
- Repeated information (predicted grades, subjects studied)

Don't just list skills -explain

### **Example**

*“At TESCO I work with a variety of different people whether it be liaising with my manager to negotiate upcoming shifts or helping a customer locate an item on the shelves. It is my responsibility to ensure customers have the best possible experience. I do this by constantly building and revising my product knowledge and working effectively alongside colleagues with different areas of specialism.”*

# To be avoided

- I am an enthusiastic, charismatic and easily likeable student.....
- I am an aspiring lawyer.
- I have a driven personality...
- I believe that I am ready for university life because the criteria needed for success is within me and I believe I have the perfect personality and work ethic to succeed...



# The Worst PS!

- I've had a love of reading from a very young age from the time when I could read *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.
- I'm never happier than when I'm reading and that's why I want to Study English Language and Literature at Oxford
- the G&D's ice cream sold there is the best.
- I'm applying for deferred entry as I'm having a gap year.

# FINALLY!

- **PLAGIARISM**

UCAS checks personal statements against a library of those already in the system and from a variety of websites and paper publications. Each new statement is added to the library.

- **FACEBOOK**

- UCAS views social network sites and so do unis. Be careful what you say! (Clean it up)
- Don't use text language.
- What is your email address like?

# FINALLY!

- Make it your own and do not get input from loads of different people.
- **DO IT EARLY**
- Look at the examples we have provided.