





UCAS

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Please note this assembly is being recorded and  
the recording is only for use by students of  
Maiden Erlegh School

You will not remember everything



**UCAS**

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**Any questions please make an appointment  
to come and see me**

[m.gomm@maidenerleghttrust.org](mailto:m.gomm@maidenerleghttrust.org)

Attend Open Days

Check if you need to do a test.

Register on the Pearson Portal

**UCAS**

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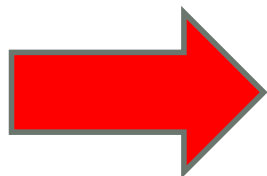
**APPLYING FOR ENTRY IN 2025**

*Universities and Colleges Admissions Service*

**The personal statement**

## Time line for 2025 entry

Date	UCAS process for 2025 entry
<b>NOW</b>	<b>Register on UCAS hub</b>
30 <sup>th</sup> April	UCAS 2025 courses in search tool
14 <sup>th</sup> May	UCAS 2025 system live ( <b>not for MES students</b> )
17 <sup>th</sup> May	MES UCAS The process explained
7 <sup>th</sup> June	MES UCAS Application launch assembly
19 <sup>th</sup> June	MES UCAS Parents Information Evening - 7.00pm
21 <sup>st</sup> June	MES personal statements assembly
8 <sup>th</sup> July	Future Pathways day - Personal Statement session
27 <sup>th</sup> September	MES Early Entry deadline
15 <sup>th</sup> October	UCAS Early Entry deadline
7 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	MES UCAS deadline
29 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	UCAS Equal Consideration deadline



The UCAS logo is displayed within a white trapezoidal shape with a thin grey border. The letters 'UCAS' are in a bold, sans-serif font, with the 'A' being red and the other letters black.

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**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
- Chance to explain why **YOU** want to study the course.
- What makes you the perfect candidate
- 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

The UCAS logo is located in the top right corner of the slide. It consists of the letters 'UCAS' in a bold, sans-serif font. The letter 'A' is red, while the other letters are black. The logo is enclosed in a white rectangular box with a thin black border.

## 1. Why do I want to study this course? –

Provide evidence of:

- Why are you applying for this course
- Research and understanding of the course or profession
- Interest in and understanding of the subject area: **note** not all courses with the same title are the same
- Why are you suitable for this course
- An understanding of the course/profession
- How do your current studies relate to this course
- Demonstration of your research and justify your reasoning.
- Read professional documentation, BMA, IET, Societies etc

# Consider 3 main issues

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

Any skills with evidence about why you are excited about what you are to study.

Work Experience and Job

they are expecting to see you comment on your work experience, job and **other life experiences**

**how** this has prepared you for this course and university life.

**NOT** a list of - I have done this and I have done that.

# Consider 3 main issues

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## **3. How do your other interests support and complement your studies?**

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

Include achievements you are proud of, responsibilities you have, attributes that make you interesting, special or unique.

### **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?

What are your aspirations – by 30?

Personal circumstances/challenges which have affected your performance  
- explain

## 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!
- Leave it for several days
- 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 – sentence starters.
- 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.

- **PLAGIARISM** **FINALLY!**

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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?

- **AI** do not use, write it yourself



# FINALLY!

UCAS

- Make it your own and **do not get** input from loads of different people.
- **DO IT EARLY** – give it sit time.
- Look at the examples
- Use the tool on the UCAS Hub

