

Getting into HE: The Applicant Journey



- > There are over 37,000 undergraduate courses at over 370 providers in the UK.



> The UCAS journey

1

- Potential applicant researches and finds a course

2

- Registers online with UCAS Apply

3

- Completes form and processes payment

4

- Academic reference added by school / college

5

- School / college sends form electronically to UCAS

6

- UCAS processes form and forwards to chosen HEIs

7

- HEIs submit decisions (offer or unsuccessful)

8

- Applicant views decisions on Track

9

- Applicant replies to offers on Track (Firm / Insurance)

10

- HEIs confirm places when results are released



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>

Summary...

- 1. Course search** - summer
- 2. Personal statement** - summer
- 3. Apply** - Sept/Oct

>

Key features of admissions scheme

- Maximum of 5 choices
- Some choice restrictions:
 - Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry – max 4 choices
 - Oxford or Cambridge
- Simultaneous consideration
- ‘Invisibility’
- Application fee for 2017 - £24 or £13 for single choice



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> Important dates

- **15 October:**
 - ❑ **Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary and Oxbridge applications**
- **15 January:**
 - ❑ **Deadline for all courses except those with 15 October and 24 March deadline**
- **24 March:**
 - ❑ **Deadline for some art and design courses**



However a school may give earlier deadlines UCAS

Online research



Course research → “Course search”

>

- 2017
- subject
- single subject
- entry requirements
- Irish qualifications – Leaving Cert.



- college website

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> THE PERSONAL STATEMENT



Keep it
relevant

> Personal Statement - its all about you


▪ **Your opportunity to tell the institutions about you:**

- ❑ What are your academic achievements – talk about a piece of work you are particularly proud of
- ❑ How do your current academic achievements link to your chosen subject?

▪ **What interests you about your chosen subject area:**

- ❑ Why does it interest you?
- ❑ What do you already know about it?
- ❑ What elements of the subject do you particularly enjoy and why?
- ❑ Life after university – where will it take you?


> Universities – a good starting point

 Cambridge University Stu... X

[Information for Teachers](#)
[Alternative Prospective](#)
[homepage](#) [A-Z index](#)


The course you choose to study is your decision and your decision
ever be pressured into applying for a course because your family, fri
People choose courses for many different reasons. At the very least
you've applied for – it'll be a long 3 years otherwise


Search for


Manchester Metropolitan University

Study at MMU

MMU Homepage » Study at MMU » Undergraduate Study » How to Apply » Writing a
How to Apply » Writing a Personal Statement


STAFFORDSHIRE UNIVERSITY





University of Central Lancashire

[Home](#) » [Services](#) » [Learning Development Unit](#) » Personal Statements

LDU

About the LDU

SD2 - UK PSF

Conferences

Courses and Workshops

Learning Technology

Guidance

Assessment and
Feedback

Course Design

Employability and Skills

Teaching Guidance

PDP

Generic PDP Index

Using these
resources

The Health Club
model

Personal Statements

Personal Statements are:

Descriptive - they describe something about you and your life.

Evaluative - they give your views on the benefits and / or value of your experiences.

Reflective - they say how you feel about something, what your ideas are.

Forward looking - they highlight areas for action and / or your ambitions, plans and hopes.

What should go into a Personal Statement?

A Personal Statement should include:

- How you're doing in your present course or employment, and what you've learnt from them.
- What you do in your spare time and how you've benefited from these activities.
- Why you are interested in the course or job you are applying for.
- What challenges you've faced recently and how you've met those challenges.
- Things which are relevant for the purpose of your application - things to make your application especially

Is the course right for me?

If you choose to study Computing, you will meet people from many different backgrounds and with a wide range of interests. For some, the attraction is creativity: designing and making things, from programs to electronic products. For others, it is about intellectual challenges: solving problems and finding ways to understand complex phenomena both natural and artificial. For others, the attractions come from its direct relevance to the real world and its importance in many other areas of society. If one or more of these applies to you, then you should consider applying for a Computing degree at Bristol.

- You will need to be interested in the subject, and show evidence of your enthusiasm in the personal statement. Explain why you are interested in computing, and whether there are aspects of the subject that you would like to focus on.
- You should have good written and oral communication skills. Written skills could be shown by the clarity of your personal statement.
- You should show that you could work as part of a team. For example, maybe you have worked as part of a group in a project at school, or maybe you have collaborated with others for part of a Duke of Edinburgh award?

be considered and such students will be required to do a Mathematics unit in the first year which covers the A-level syllabus.

- You should give an account of your participation and achievement in non-

[Further information on how to apply](#)

There are a number of things that we sometimes look out for on applications which can weigh in your favour. They can help you decide whether the degree we offer is the correct one for you. So, none of what we describe below is an entry requirement - you don't have to do it - but you might find it fun and very useful.

the correct one for you. So, none of what we describe below is an entry requirement - you don't have to do it - but you might find it fun and very useful.

Have you joined a local archaeological or historical society? They usually run series of talks, sometimes by historians and archaeologists from local universities. You could even volunteer to help out on a local archaeological excavation. Your local county archaeologist and publications of the Council of British Archaeology will help you find further information. You could ask in your local library about both. Again, you don't have to go on an excavation, but it's a fun way of finding out if you wish to pursue a course that would teach you more about the theoretical and practical aspects of archaeology in Britain and abroad. And if you do get a chance to do this, please tell us in your application!

Telephone enquiries: +44 (0)121 414 3401
Email: IAA-admissions@contacts.bham.ac.uk

[Course Specific Requirements](#)

> UCAS



5 very common phrases used
in opening sentence ...
...try and avoid them



- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 | I have always |
| 2 | My interest in |
| 3 | I would like to study |
| 4 | I have chosen |
| 5 | My decision to |

> What will the reader be looking for?

Commitment,
interest, enthusiasm

Numeracy, literacy
and essay writing

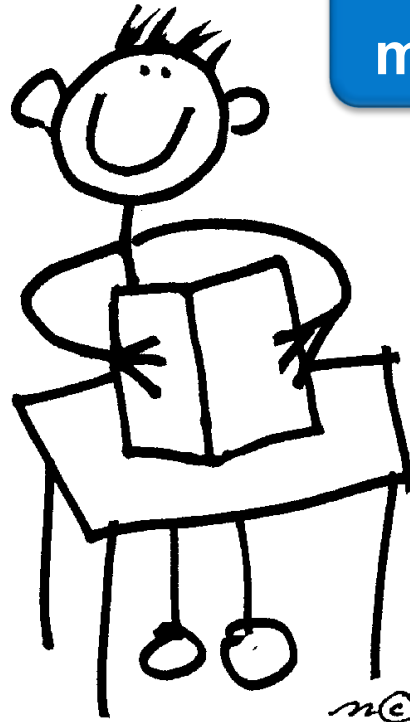
Research skills

Time
management

Independent
study skills

Relevant work
experience

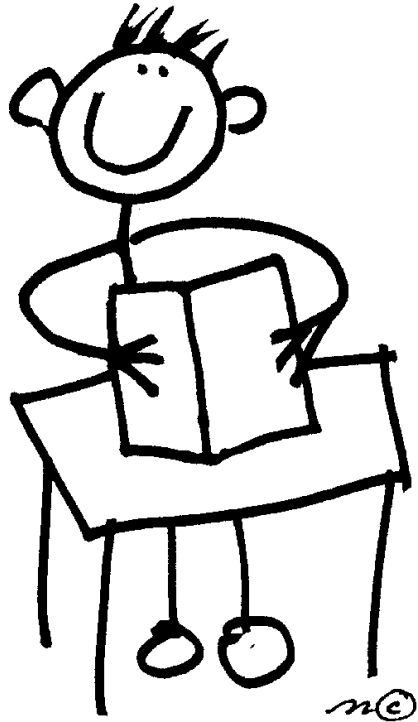
Extra curricular
activities



= relevant (and transferable)
skills and abilities

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> Where to start?



- What makes you unique?
 - It doesn't matter what you've done provided it reflects the skills and attributes that the institution have expressed are important.
 - Here are some example questions that you could use to help...

Some questions that might help....

What has been your biggest achievement and why?

List any prizes you have won.

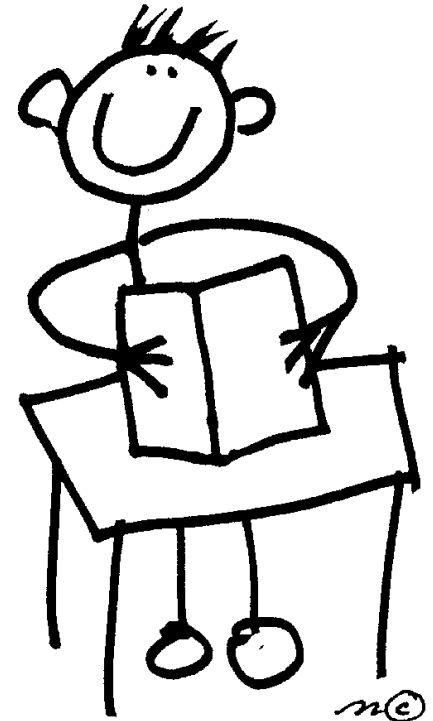
Have you faced any difficulties in life? Did it change you?

Do you have a favourite book / film? How has it influenced you?

Has anyone motivated you? If so, who and why?

Where do you see yourself in 5 years time?

Have you worked hard for something and finally achieved your goal?



> Avoid writing lists

“ I play hockey for the school, I sing in the choir, I belong to a drama society, I am taking part in the Gaisce Award, I work in Tesco on Saturdays and I shop for my granny on Mondays after school. ”



> Expand on your activities



I have been an active member of the School Musical Society for the last three years. This has been exciting as I have had the opportunity to work collaboratively in a creative context with other students, to design sets and costumes for “The Importance of Being Earnest” and “Sweeney Todd”. I am sure this experience will prove to be valuable as I study costume design.



> Concluding Personal Statements

End personal statement on a positive note, use opportunity to impress

“I am looking forward to becoming a psychologist”

OR

“I am passionate about working with young children in the future and therefore am highly determined to make the most of my degree and achieve my ambition to become a developmental psychologist.”

> Personal statement ABC RULE

Good



Activity

Better

When you



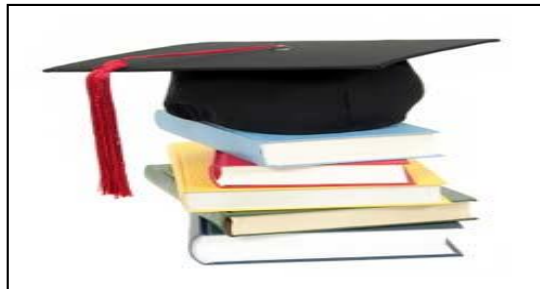
Benefit

Best

How

course

Course



> Keep it honest...

“

... and when I'm not working towards World Peace, I enjoy learning languages from scratch, writing symphonies and playing a standard of golf that Rory Mcilroy can only dream about.

”

> Similarity Detection Service

- Personal Statements are checked 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 after processing

Make sure that your personal statement is your own work

We will, along with other verification checks for identity and academic qualifications, test applications to detect plagiarism. If we have cause to question your application, we will inform all the universities and colleges to which you have applied. They will then take the action they consider to be appropriate. We will also contact you by email.

☐ section completed

save