

Guidance to help you complete your Personal Statement

Please read the following instructions and guidance before starting your Personal Statement. You may also wish to sign up to our Applicants' webinar detailed on our application page. If you have any questions, please contact us [here](#).

When you have read through this guidance and are ready to start your Personal Statement, click anywhere in this document or scroll down to go to the Personal Statement form to fill in.

Purpose of the Personal Statement

We require you to format your Personal Statement as a narrative response to a series of questions which we have detailed below. The questions are designed to help you structure your personal statement and to help us better understand your development as a scientist and your skills, motivation and potential as a future independent researcher.

We encourage you to use this Personal Statement as a way of showing us how you are developing as a scientist, the achievements you are proud of, the passion you have for your science, the progress you have made and the challenges you have overcome.

General instructions

You must write between 200 and 300 words **per question** and keep to a maximum of 1,200 words for the Personal Statement as a whole. Please check the word count for each question carefully to ensure you don't go over 300 words per question as any excess words over 300 at the end of your answer will be disregarded.

As there is a maximum number of words available, you will need to be selective in what you include and avoid repeating yourself.

Personal Statement questions

Here are the questions with a wide range of illustrative examples to help you to start thinking about how you will answer the questions. A lot of the examples will not apply to you personally but use them as inspiration to remind you of what you have done. Your own experiences are unique and after some thought you will find ways of expressing your passion for science and development as a scientist.

Question 1

Let us have some examples where you have explored new ideas, developed your knowledge or shown creativity and inventiveness. Share with us your enthusiasm about work you have enjoyed doing or challenges that gave you a sense of achievement when you overcame them.

Examples to think about:

- The examples you describe could relate to your science or your work on a personal or school/university project, a piece of research, an experiment or ideas you have been thinking about.
- They could have come up in your home, workplace or professional life
- They could be work you have done with others or on your own.

Question 2

Tell us about some times when you worked with others or discussed, talked or connected with them about your work, interests or ideas.

These are examples to inspire you, you are not expected to have experienced all of these. Think about your own experiences of connecting with others about your interests and reflect on how you prepared, what happened and what you learnt from these experiences:

- Think about when you have worked in teams or groups. You might have made a difference by leading a team or you may have encouraged others. What did you do and say that made a difference?
- Perhaps you helped someone to achieve something – how did you inspire them to work on their ideas, be creative and to keep going?
- You may have been able to talk about your interests whilst volunteering for something, in a society or club or helping someone out.
- Have you created or been involved in blogs, zines, journals, newsletters or social media, a website or an online community to discuss or communicate your interests? Also consider artwork, film, animation, photography, gaming or hackathons you have done to support your interests.

Question 3

Tell us about your scientific research interests, ideas and ambitions.

- We wish you to elaborate on your interests and ideas and reflect on what you hope to achieve if you are given the opportunity to explore them further.
- Think about the scientific problems and questions you would like to be part of solving.
- You may include different interests, ideas and scientific problems that you are passionate about.
- Part of your answer may address how your interests apply to the project you are applying for, but we want to hear about your wider interests, too.

Question 4

In this last section, we would like you to write freely about your journey in education and science, the achievements you are proud of and any significant challenges, disadvantages or barriers you encountered along the way that needed your determination and perseverance to overcome.

- You are free to choose how you answer this question.
- You may find that, looking back, a lot of different things have contributed to your scientific development. Reflect on them and how you have built on those steps in your career.
- Optionally, you are free to add other perspectives such as any significant challenges, disadvantages and barriers you have had to overcome along the way. Significant means that it has had a lasting impact on your studies and scientific journey and required. We are interested in hearing about the determination and perseverance you needed to overcome those challenges, disadvantages and barriers.

The following pages are for your Personal Statement. Please write only in the test boxes provided below the Questions which will expand as you write. You may also draft your answers separately and paste them into the text boxes.

Personal Statement

Click underneath each question and type or paste your response in the text boxes which will expand as you write. If you need help, please contact us [here](#).

Please state your full name as it appears on your application form:

Please state your email address as it appears on your application form:

Question 1: Let us have some examples where you have explored new ideas, developed your knowledge or shown creativity and inventiveness. Share with us your enthusiasm about work you have enjoyed doing or challenges that gave you a sense of achievement when you overcame them.

Question 2: Tell us about some times when you have worked with others or discussed, talked or connected with them about your work, interests or ideas.

Question 3: Tell us about your scientific research interests, ideas and ambitions.

Question 4: In this last section, we would like you to write freely about your journey in education and science, the achievements you are proud of and the challenges or barriers you encountered along the way that needed your determination and perseverance to overcome.