

# Writing your best Personal Statement

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#BelongatBath



# What this session will cover

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- What is a personal statement?
- What are universities looking for?
- ABC technique
- What makes a great statement – examples
- Common mistakes to avoid
- Questions!



## What's in a UCAS Application?



### Personal Information

- School details
- Support needs
- Contact details



### Qualifications

- Current subjects
- Predicted grades
- Completed subjects



### Work History

- Work experience
- Jobs



### Personal Statement



### Chosen Courses/ Universities



Accompanied by the Teacher Reference





# Personal Statement

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It is an essential part of the UCAS application

Minimum of 1,000 characters

Maximum of 4,000 characters or 47 lines



# What makes a great university student?

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- Enthusiasm and commitment to the subject.
- Understanding of the subject and its requirements
- Evidence of the desirable skills, knowledge, experience and qualities for the course



# What about what makes a great student of your preferred subject?

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What experience, skills, and qualities are needed for a successful application?





# Where have you developed these skills and qualities?

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Make a list of experiences you have which would demonstrate where you have developed some of the skills and qualities universities may be looking for.

Try to reference your current and GCSE studies, work experience, wider reading and/or your interests and hobbies.



# The ABC of Personal Statements

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<b>A</b> ctivity	What did you do?	“I coached a sports team”
<b>B</b> enefit	What did you learn?	“Leadership, time management, team work, being responsible’
<b>C</b> ourse	How does it relate to the course/being a student?	“At university I will be responsible for my own progress. Studying Management means there will be quite a lot of team and project work. I know how to organise and motivate teams, and how to get results.”





# Example

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<b>A</b> ctivity	What did you do?	“I did a MOOC on Bioprinting”
<b>B</b> enefit	What did you learn?	“I learned about 3D printing of body parts and organs”
<b>C</b> ourse	How does it relate to the course/being a student?	“The MOOC gave me opportunities to not only investigate the 3D printing facilities available to me but to also design, potentially print and share my creations with some fellow learners. I hope to build on the knowledge and skills in my Biomedical Engineering degree”



# Over to you!

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Choose one of the experiences on your list and try creating an ABC which describes it and the skills you've developed...



# Example

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I am studying Computing, Maths and Physics. I love using logical thinking and the occasional bit of creativity to solve more complex problems within them. I particularly enjoy the freedom Computer Science gives, having many solutions to every programming task. Studying computing has not only taught me the language of Visual Basic, but how programming languages are structured. I found this captivating so bought a Raspberry Pi and taught myself Python by coding small programs such as a random algebra quiz.



Would you offer this student a place?

Why/Why not?

**Identify different ways the student demonstrates enthusiasm for their subject.**



# Example

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I am studying Computing, Maths and Physics. I **love** using logical thinking and the occasional bit of creativity to solve more complex problems within them. I **particularly enjoy** the **freedom** Computer Science gives, having many solutions to every programming task. Studying computing has not only taught me the language of Visual Basic, but how programming languages are structured. I found this **captivating** so bought a Raspberry Pi and taught myself Python by coding small programs such as a random algebra quiz.



Would you offer this student a place?

Why/Why not?

**Identify different ways the student demonstrates enthusiasm for their subject.**

# Example

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At college, mathematics has solidified my ability to solve complex problems by applying an array of arithmetical processes, and the statistics modules I have taken have taught me how to best handle and evaluate data. As well as giving me a solid comprehension of economic theory, my economics course has expanded my awareness of how businesses and individuals base their decisions on factors such as risk and economic climate.

Would you offer this student a place?

Why/Why not?

Identify different ways the student demonstrates a knowledge of the requirements of their chosen subject.





# Example

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At college, **mathematics** has solidified **my ability to solve complex problems by applying an array of arithmetical processes**, and the **statistics modules** I have taken have taught me how to best **handle and evaluate data**. As well as **giving me a solid comprehension of economic theory**, my **economics** course has expanded my **awareness of how businesses and individuals base their decisions on factors such as risk and economic climate**.

Would you offer this student a place?

Why/Why not?

Identify different ways the student demonstrates a knowledge of the requirements of their chosen subject.





## Some common mistakes to avoid!

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- Avoid lists
- Irrelevant personal facts
- Meaningless quotes
- Repeating details
- Names of universities
- Clichés

