



## How to write your undergraduate personal statement

Your Personal Statement is your chance to make a good first impression of the admissions team at your university choices. It's not easy to sum up why you should be admitted in just 4000 characters.

Maximum Characters: 4000

Maximum Lines: 47

Oxbridge and Medicine Deadline: October 16<sup>th</sup>

Standard Application Deadline: January 29<sup>th</sup>

### The introduction – Why do you want to study this subject?

- 5 – 6 Lines
- Topics to cover
  - What subject are you applying for?
  - What motivated you to apply for this subject?
  - Do you have any personal experience/attachment to the subject
- Use a short, sharp, strong opening sentence.
- Avoid clichés like 'From a young age, I've always been interested in ...'
- Make it memorable, personal, relevant and most importantly, honest.
- Don't start in-depth discussions of your work until the next paragraph.

### The Main Body – Paragraph By Paragraph

- 32-37 lines
- **Paragraph 1: Why are you suited to this subject?**
  - This paragraph should have a hard focus on your academics in order to answer this question. Discuss your current performance, future ambitions relevant to the degree and other personal factors that make this course right for you.
- **Paragraph 2: What have you done to prove your dedication to this subject?**
  - This paragraph can focus less on your academics and more on your primary enrichment. This will include your wider reading, work experience, major research projects and competitions. Self-reflection is key here, so ensure you offer reasons to why your enrichment is relevant and has helped you develop into an ideal candidate.

- **Paragraph 3: What have you done to become an exceptional candidate?**
  - Here, you can show you're a well-rounded person by discussing smaller forms of enrichment. It is important that all discussion points are directly linked back to your course/subject. Don't add too much here as this should be the shortest paragraph in the main body.
  
- **Things to avoid**
  - Lack of reflection
  - Irrelevant examples
  - Too many examples
  - Generic statements
  - Overly long examples
  - Repetition
  - Long poorly worded sentences
  - False information

### **The conclusion – Leaving a Good Final Impression**

- 5 – 6 Lines
  
- For this final paragraph, the main going should be to put into context everything that you have written so far and summarise why you deserve a place on your chosen course. This should be short and sweet to leave a lasting impression.
  
- Don't bring in new information at this stage in the statement, anything worth discussing should have been mentioned earlier.
  
- Avoid repeating what had already been said; it is vital that you make most of your limited character count.
  
- Draw on themes from the rest of your statement in your closing sentences; tutors are most likely to remember your statement by the induction and conclusion.