

# TIPS ON WRITING A PERSONAL STATEMENT



# Top tips



- Don't expect to rely on your grades alone
- Take time in composing your personal statement
- Explain the reasons for your choice of course
- Your statement will be read by an admissions tutor who loves their subject and may be teaching the students
- What can you offer that is related to the course .. for example – travel experiences, research, work experience or volunteering, private reading (a particular subject book, or journals that you subscribe to i.e. New Scientist, etc.).

# Things to remember



- Your personal statement should be no more than 47 lines
- You **do not** need to put down your qualifications i.e. GCSEs or grade predictions – they are on your application
- Don't repeat yourself
- Avoid humour or ambiguity
- Avoid overuse of 'quotations'
- Do not use unoriginal and clichéd opening paragraphs i.e. 'I've always had a deep interest in' or 'I am passionate about' is not going to grab the attention of the reader.

# In the beginning



- Make use of prompt sheets, look at examples (UCAS website)
- Bullet points of your achievements, subjects, likes, dislikes
- Build up paragraphs using initial notes and bullet points
- Make sure you evidence why you want to do the course and study the subject. The aim is to show you have an interest in learning about the subject
- Be yourself – write in your own voice
- Write your personal statement in your individual style, rather than trying to conform to what someone else thinks
- Personal achievements are usually secondary.

# What you need to think about when writing your Personal Statement



- Treat your personal statement like an essay, don't rush it
- A good recommendation from the University of Manchester admissions team - when using your experiences whether in your studies or work experience use the 'ABC' approach
- What **activity** you did, the **benefits** you got from this and how this is related to the **course** you now want to do
- Make connections and evidence how it could help you on your course
- When writing your personal statement imagine you are being interviewed i.e. what makes you the right person for the course?

# What You Are Trying Achieve?

- Impress a Professor /admissions tutor that you want to study the subject, what was your personal trigger?
- How does this relate to society or current affairs?
- Which aspects of the course are you really looking forward to studying in more detail and why?
- This is not simply writing about what you have done, you need to say more than ... 'I like this subject'
- Don't forget, admission tutors are looking at who they can reject!



# Think about:

- You have just one chance to get your personal statement noticed
- Be reflective not descriptive
- Evidence that you have researched your selected course
- Demonstrate your personality and enthusiasm for the subject
- High impact opening sentences
- Show your character by explaining achievements, challenges and setbacks.



# Today's students: Tomorrow's Leaders

- Join or lead a club or society, such as the debating club
- Go to a performance/take part in a writing or speaking competition
- Start an initiative i.e. organising the prom
- Move out of your comfort zone
- Be brave.





# Resources for personal statements

[www.ucaspersonalstatement.com](http://www.ucaspersonalstatement.com)

[www.fish4.co.uk/career-advice/how-to-write-a-personalstatement/](http://www.fish4.co.uk/career-advice/how-to-write-a-personalstatement/)

[www.studential.com](http://www.studential.com)

[www.university.which.co.uk](http://www.university.which.co.uk)

[www.getintouni.com](http://www.getintouni.com)