



UCAS Applications and Personal Statements

Entry 2013

UCAS – The basics

- UCAS application deadlines:
Medicine / Veterinary / Dentistry / Oxbridge
15 October
Most others **15 January**
Art and Design Route B **24 March**
- Can apply for up to 5
- All applications now done on-line –
UCAS Apply

UCAS Apply

- Often your only chance to **sell** yourself
- Four main sections:
 - Personal details and application choices
 - Qualifications gained and pending
 - Personal statement
 - School/College reference

www.ucas.com

UCAS – the basics

- **End March**

Deadline for replies from Universities
- **End April**

Deadline for student choices
Choose 1st and 2nd choice
- **End August**

Results, Confirmation, Clearing
and Adjustment



Winning Your Place

How important is the personal statement?

Extremely important for

- Selective, competitive programmes
- Many arts/humanities programmes
- Vocational programmes which require work experience

May form basis of interview

4,000 characters/47 lines

When applying remember

- One 'form' completed for all 5 choices
- You need to make a good initial impact
- You may be competing with many applicants predicted high grades
- Always think who will be reading your form - and what they will be looking for

Average Personal Statement

- I want to do X at University because I like it at A level....
- 6-8 lines about the subject of study
- 'I have Gold award Duke of Edinburgh'
- Lists the 20 sports played and 15 positions of responsibility held
- I like socialising with friends, reading and films...

Personal Statements must...

- Be 70-80% directly relevant to subject
- Be focused
- Convey motivation and enthusiasm
- Be free of grammar and spelling mistakes
- Be 47 lines (approx 4000 characters)
- Be checked by tutor or subject teacher

Personal Statements

What **not** to do...

- Don't include misleading information
- Don't use bullet points or lists
- Don't submit your form without getting it checked...and checked again.
- Avoid being too 'wacky' or 'off the wall'

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And finally...

- You have one chance to get noticed
- Deadlines are not a target
- Proof read and re-draft
- Show your personality and your passion
- Be reflective not just descriptive
- Get help but make it your own

authentic voice


- www.ucaspersonalstatement.com
- www.studential.com



Any Questions?



Eye catching opening
statements.




I know what you picked up, I know
which cup you drank from, and I know
which door you left the room by last.
(Forensic Science)

Winston Churchill, Nelson Mandela
and David Beckham, have
undoubtedly gone down in history.
They all had or have a passion, be it
war or fighting against racism.
(History)




Evidence of interest in the
subject.



Living history, archaeology and conservation, and management of heritage sites and artifacts evokes specific interest in me and a degree which offers academic study in an area that enthralles me is ideal as I firmly acknowledge my future exists within this sector. (Heritage)

I look forward to studying Artificial Intelligence, and have made my own minor foray into this area by designing and developing a computer-powered Connect 4 player using a complex 'minimax' procedure.
(Computer Science)




I enjoy discussing literature and attend a fortnightly reading group at school, which has continued to increase my understanding and enjoyment of the classics and introduced me to several significant modern works. (English)

Milgram, James Patrick and Lord Humphrey's studies have inspired me to generate my own research in order to discover the latest trends and patterns in modern society associated with a capitalist perspective. (Sociology)



Positions of responsibility




The many key skills I have to offer include independence and leadership. These personal strengths have also matured through extra-curricular activities such as the Young Enterprise Scheme where a Human Resources position became my responsibility for one year.

To help support my studies I work as a customer assistant in a retail store. Parts of my duties involve contact with members of the public and this has helped me enhance both my communication and problem solving skills.



Other interests




I enjoy traveling, and will be going to Nicaragua for a month after my A levels to help in a small village, explore the local jungles and volcanoes, practice my Spanish and experience another culture.

I was delighted recently when I was given the opportunity to combine my musical pursuits and computer interests by my employment for a commercial software company writing music.



Closing comment



I hope to be offered a place to learn as much as possible about a subject that I am passionate about. These are subjects that I am driven by, and I am confident that with this course I can succeed in gaining the necessary skills and knowledge to work in a successful music studio or media company such as the BBC. I am also looking forward to being an active member of the university community. I believe more than a minimum interest must be taken and working at an extracurricular level builds motivation, teamwork and allows the development of knowledge related to the subject to be much broader than if the bare minimum is done.