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UNIVERSITY

Personal Statements

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UK Recruitment Officer

Personal Statement

PERSONAL STATEMENT

2022 Undergraduate application

Your Personal ID number

1578002467

UCAS application / Personal statement

< Return to application overview

✓ Personal details

✓ Contact and residency details

● Education

Employment

✓ Nationality details

✓ Supporting information

✓ English language skills

✓ Finance and funding

● Diversity and inclusion

Personal statement

● Reference

Our guide to writing your personal statement (opens in a new window) should help you complete this section.

We strongly recommend you write the statement using a word-processor and paste it in to your application.

You can type your statement directly into the box or edit a statement you have pasted in.

Personal statement *

Your completed statement must be between 1,000 and 4,000 characters (maximum 47 lines) including spaces.

Characters used: 0 of 4000 characters

Save draft

Save & Preview

i

You have used 0 of 47 lines based on the preview and 0 of 4000 characters.

Personal statement Preview

i

You have used 5 of 47 lines based on the preview and 445 of 4000 characters.

Make sure your personal statement is your own work

We'll carry out checks to verify your personal statement is your own work.

Provided it is your wn work, you can use your personal statement from your application last year.If it appears to have been copied from another source, we'll inform the universities and colleges to which you have applied. They will then take the action they consider appropriate. We'll also contact you by email to tell you this has happened.

Edit

445 of 4000 characters

1

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3

4

5

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☐ Mark this section as complete *

You must complete all mandatory fields in this section before you can mark it as complete. All sections must be marked as complete before you can send your application.

1884

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What is the purpose of my personal statement?

Important and crucial part of form which causes the most anguish

Personalise application and reflect your individuality

Show your enthusiasm and commitment to the course and explain why you are applying for that subject

Show admissions tutors that you are worth offering a place to

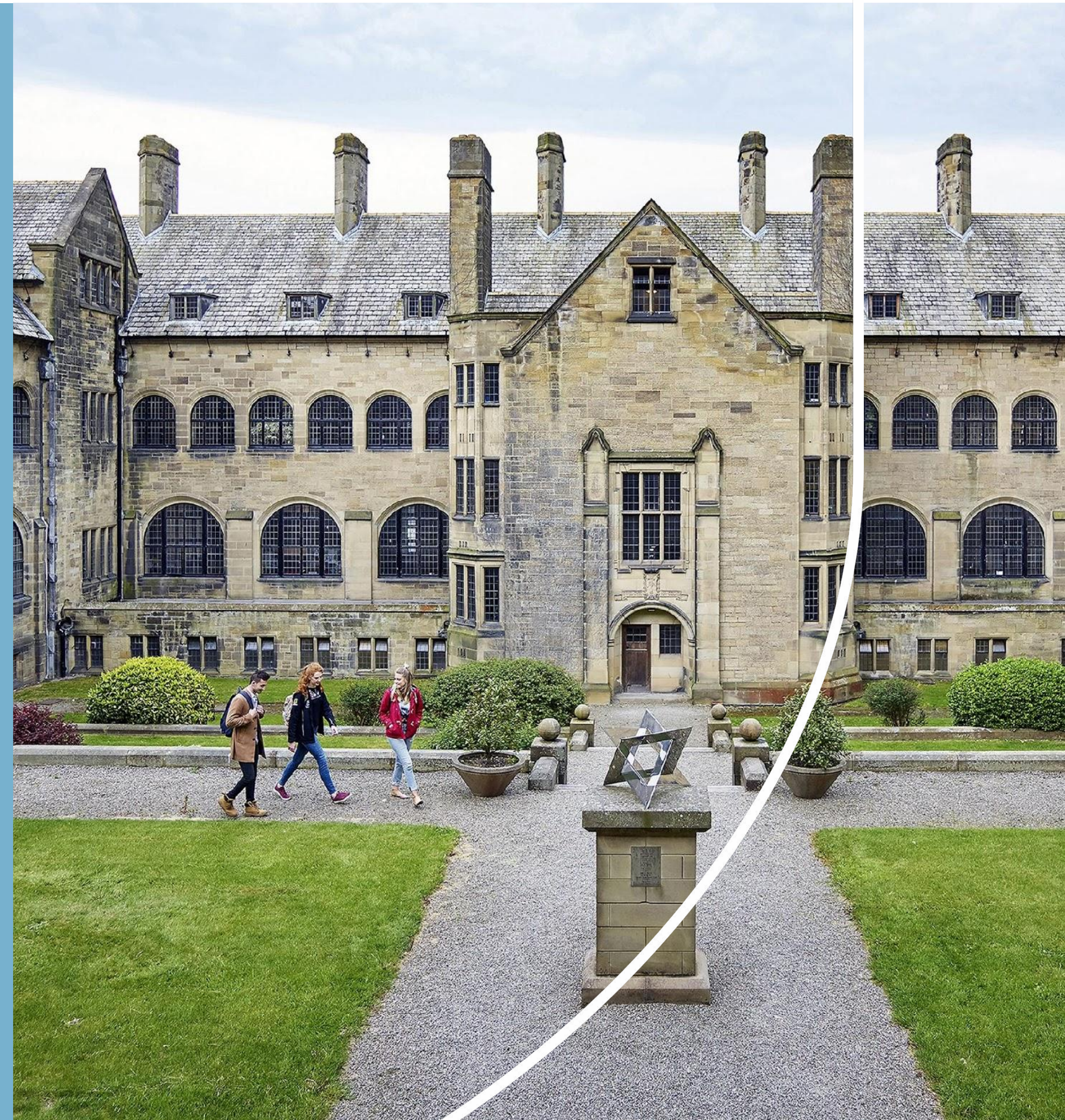
Explain why the institution should want you as a student

Why is it so important?

- Every single personal statement is read
- When interviews are not held, tutors rely on the information given here
- Often the only example of written work from you that the admissions tutor will see
- It is a marketing tool for your interests, talents and accomplishments you are competing against many other applicants and have to sell yourself
- E.g. Nursing and Midwifery courses - hundreds apply for each place
- Probably the first time you've ever done anything like this, so important to consider what you want to say and how to say it

How to start

- Choose the course
- In-depth research into the subject
- Gather information about yourself - skills, qualities, hobbies, experiences, extra-curricular activities etc
- Critically reflect on above information - how and what
- Contact Admissions Tutors with any questions



What do admissions tutors want to see?

- Tutors like well-rounded, responsible individuals, with range of interests and well-organised enough to cope with university-level study
- They are looking for motivation and potential and expect the statement to relate to your choice of course
- For every good personal statement, there are plenty of terrible ones
- Tutors will read hundreds of statements, many of which are dull, so they should be interesting!

What to include – Academic = 80%

- Why that subject? Give specific reasons for your interest in the course
- Why studying current qualifications? How will they help on the course?
- Evidence of research and background reading
- Prepared for the course – especially for vocational or new subject
- Career plan
- Relevant job, work placement, voluntary experience, summer school, related lecture etc.

What to include – Social = 20%

- Academic qualifications alone are not enough – want to see what makes a student tick
- Hobbies, interests, extra-curricular groups etc.
- Positions of responsibility, self-motivation, hurdles overcome
- Use these to demonstrate your character and strengths
- Link them to skills and experience needed for the course
- Students taking a gap year should explain why

Do include...

Voluntary work

Career aspirations

Charity work

Subject lectures

Team captain

Public speaking

Drama production

Museum trips

Exhibitions

Employment

Workshops

School/College clubs

Awards

Hobbies

Outside reading

Trips abroad

Work experience

DofE

Documentaries

Theatre trips

Clubs outside school/college

Summer school

Historical sites

EPQ

MOOCS

Community activities

STEM activities

Articles

Council position

Competitions/Prizes



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Don't include...

- Quotes
- Clichés
- Lists of hobbies/skills/achievements
- Sweeping statements
- Certain words and phrases e.g. passionate, since I was young, I want to help people, I really love...
- Lies
- Humour
- Negative comments



What admissions tutors say

“An element of reflection and analysis really makes the difference to the application. It’s not about what you’ve done but how you think about what you have done.”

“What makes a good personal statement is enthusiasm, wider reading and a statement that is in fact personal and that touch different or interesting.”

“You need to go beyond a love for the subject – show detail and research and justify any statements”

In summary

- Establish your commitment and motivation to study
- Emphasise your academic interests
- Describe any work experience
- Show that you have an appreciation of current affairs in your field
- Demonstrate that you are a responsible person who will cope with the freedom of university study
- Tell them about your outside interests and achievements
- Do not lie!



Is your statement
complete?

If not and there are
obvious gaps, work on
it now



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How to write it

- 4000 characters (47 lines)
- Strong introduction and conclusion with unique selling point at the start
- Write what comes naturally, tone – not over-familiar nor over-formal
- Don't start every sentence with I
- Avoid repeating any information
- Be original
- Make a few copies
- Proof read
- Take your time, be patient and get it right



Skills and qualities to include



Most common introductions

1. From a young age I have (always) been interested in/fascinated by
2. For as long as I can remember I have.....
3. I am applying for this course because.....
4. I have always been interested in.....
5. Throughout my life I have always enjoyed.....



Good, bad or just OK?

Hello, my name is XXXX, I am from XXXX, and am currently in Year 13 studying Biology, Chemistry and Maths.

I have always known I wanted to go to law school. Ever since I was little, I would picture myself sitting in a courtroom and fighting for justice and I hope to make this a reality at your law school.

I developed a keen interest in the body's response to illness and disease during my A Level Biology course. Independent research into pathology became evermore poignant when the focus of media coverage outlined the deterioration of our nation's health in terms of escalating instances of diabetes.

Good, bad or just OK?

I understand that the role of a nurse is not just to make people better medically, but to communicate with them and to help them feel settled.

I have good communication skills as I can talk to anyone about anything.

Out of school I like to socialise with my friends, watching tv and shopping.

After studying Economics and Sciences, I now believe that good links between engineers and businesses are essential for an efficient and profitable future.

Good, bad or just OK?

I am currently a School Prefect, working closely with the years 7, 8 and 9 students. I believe to I do this well as I portray an enthusiastic, responsible and reliable image.

I can also work on my own as well as part of a team, as I have worked on my own for A Levels, and as part of a team in Boots.

Thousands have tried to make their personal statement witty and exciting but have failed. But there will be one, just one, who will stand out from the crowd and will be so amazing and spectacular that all the universities across the land will want this person in their university.

Which introduction?

1. Great figures like Ghandi and Martin Luther King caused massive changes and few would deny their impact on the world in which we now live.
2. "If exams were spoken you would pass with flying colors" this is the very statement that fuelled my desire to read Law at degree level.
3. My aspiration to study Law comes from an appreciation I had of the subject stemming from my fathers' current and previous businesses.
4. My desire to study law stems back as far as primary school. It was at a very young age that I discovered that I wanted to become a lawyer and I have never wavered from this decision.

Which conclusion?

1. I am a keen runner and completed the Bath Half Marathon raising over £800 for a national Parkinson's charity and am in training for this years Bath Half Marathon, this time raising money for CLIC Sargent.
2. I am very passionate about Psychology, and would eventually like to pursue a career in the field. As someone who plays many roles in observation, it would deeply satisfy me to be able to devote myself into something that can better the mutual understanding between people's behaviour and perhaps promote a better society.
3. I would be an asset to your university and am very enthusiastic about my subjects. The course you offer will broaden my knowledge, satisfy my curiosity and deepen my understanding; I am very determined and thoughtful, and would find the course you offer highly motivating.
4. After my degree I would like to go on to do further study and perhaps undertake training to become a Psychologist. I am passionate about studying Psychology, and looking forward to extending my knowledge in this exciting discipline, and contributing to it in the future.

Parts of a good personal statement

- “Many stories in the press focus on legal matters and it is from reading such articles that I first became interested in studying law.
- I do not yet know in which area I would like to specialise but I do know that I would like to study Law as a stepping-stone to obtaining a career where I might be able to improve the lives of others.
- Studying Sociology A Level has given me the basic theoretical knowledge to understand how societies function and how the legal system plays its part. Studying it made me even more certain that I wished to study for a degree in Law.
- I have spent time observing cases at the local Magistrates Court which has given me a better understanding of the criminal justice system.
- I organised a charity fashion show in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care, and work part time in a local restaurant. This involves working under pressure, conversing with all types of people, diffusing difficult situations and solving customer problems.
- I am involved in the school debating society and took part in Young Enterprise Schemes. I was the group’s Personnel Manager so had to learn about delegation and management skills.
- I now look forward with enthusiasm to the opportunities that I will encounter at university such as the chance to be involved in Moots.”

A few tips

- Re-read prospectuses and information about the subject/course before you start
- Don't mention a university by name
- Ensure the statement demonstrates that you have researched the course
- Check that each sentence adds something new
- Use the most relevant and recent examples of hobbies and extra-curricular activities
- Don't worry about the outcome – you can't do anything afterwards unless you are invited to an interview



Useful websites

- www.bangor.ac.uk
- www.discoveruni.gov.uk
- www.futurelearn.com
- www.opendays.com
- www.studential.com
- www.thestudentroom.co.uk
- www.theuniguide.co.uk
- www.ucas.com



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10 July