

Personal Statement Guidance



DOS:

- Organize your paragraphs into a clear structure
- Give yourself plenty of time for editing
- Be specific when you use examples
- Use correct grammar and spelling
- Be original and reflect on your own experiences

DON'T:

- Spend too long on your introduction- come back to this at the end
- Use cliches or quotes, this will be very common for admissions and you want to stand out
- Try not to list your interests, choose the most relevant and expand
- Be informal, it is an academic piece of writing
- Name institutions directly because this will be read by all the institutions you are applying to

Opening Section:

- Why do you want to study this course?
- What makes you excited about the course?
- Keep it short and concise

Main Body:

- Explore your academic interest and passion for the subject
- What experiences showcase your passion for wanting to study this course?
- What relevant skills have you gained from your studies so far?
- Reflect on some interesting reading you have done for this course and what you learned
- Have you done any work experience or volunteering relevant to your course?
- Use reflective examples using the STAR technique- Situation (where were you?), task (what was the challenge?), action (what did you do?), result (what did you learn from it?)

Additional Section:

- What other experience has helped you to prepare for university/college?
- How does this make you an ideal candidate?
- Extracurricular activities- hobbies, responsibilities at school, being able to speak another language, part-time work
- Be clear about the transferable skills and why these are important for going to university/college

Conclusion:

- Summarise your best parts and passion for the course
- Tie together and highlight all the parts of your statement