



THE RADCLIFFE SCHOOL

6th Form UCAS Fortnight

An opportunity to explore your...

Next Steps

An opportunity to develop your...

Application skills

An opportunity to develop your...

Personal statement skills



What is the UCAS Personal Statement?



The Personal Statement is a very important part of your university application, around an A4 side in length, which gives you an opportunity :

- 1) To tell the universities and colleges why they should choose you
- 2) To tell universities and colleges about your suitability for the course(s) that you hope to study.
- 3) To demonstrate your enthusiasm and commitment, and above all, ensure that you stand out from the crowd



Writing about the Course: the Advice from UCAS



- ❑ **At least two thirds of your personal statement should relate to the course**
- ❑ The personal statement will be seen by all your choices and **could be used as the basis for an interview**, so be prepared to answer questions on it
- ❑ Remember, in most cases, this will be **the only written work that the course tutor sees before making a decision**



The Mechanics UCAS

- You can enter up to 4,000 characters including spaces or 47 lines of text (including blank lines), whichever comes first.
- When you save text, the system will tell you how many characters are left or if you have used too many.
- You can preview your statement after you have saved it.
- You cannot use *italics*, **bold** or underlining .
- The system will recognise European characters eg â é è
- Write your PS in Word and paste onto the UCAS form



Two of the most important things to include are:

(1) **Why you are applying for the course you have chosen:**

- Why does the subject interest you?
- Include evidence that you understand what's required to study the course**
- What got you interested in the subject?
- What have you learnt about the subject?
- Any activities that demonstrate your interest in the course(s)





(2) Why you are suitable for the course:

- Which skills and experience do you have that will help you succeed on the course.
- What have you done to develop your knowledge of the subject?
- What evidence is there that you have read, studied, gained experiences outside the confines of your A level courses?



Do a draft and redraft it several times



- ❑ First, start by looking at the Personal Statement Mind-map on the UCAS APPLY website :

<http://www.ucas.com/students/applying/howtoapply/personalstatement>

- ❑ Use it to help you construct a mind-map focused on your personal aims and aspirations



Above All Don't Plagiarise!



One year 234 UCAS personal statements contained the following:

"Ever since I accidentally burnt holes in my pyjamas after experimenting with a chemistry set on my eighth birthday, I have always had a passion for science."

Your statement is put throughout a plagiarism checker and will be refused if you have copied someone else.



To start your personal statement

Your skills and experiences

The skills the university courses want to see

- Using a highlighter match your skills and experiences with something the university wants to see.
- Using the ABC rule start making sentences.
- A = Activity or achievement you have done.
- B = Benefit – what transferable skills have you gained?
- Course = How will this prepare you for the course?



Business Management

- ❑ Action: I play football twice a week. My team often enters local tournaments and I am the team captain
- ❑ Benefit: Team work, dedication, leadership skills, competitive drive
- ❑ Course Relevance: Examples of two vital skills in business: competitiveness and enthusiasm. Leadership skills are essential for success in Business Management and lead to strong skills in project management, presentation, and managing other staff

Psychology

- ❑ Action: I have volunteered at a primary school as a part-time classroom assistant for two years
- ❑ Benefit: Close regular contact with children over a reasonable period of time, classroom management, interaction with parents
- ❑ Course Relevance: Excellent for developmental psychology modules, child psychology, family issues, basic understanding of how some special needs affect the learning process. Could have sparked the passion for studying psychology



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Avoid exaggerated language

Maths is.....

'amazing'

'incredible'

'fantastic'

'unbelievably interesting'

'captivating'

Say something more thoughtful





How should you say it?

- Persuade them that you are like this don't just claim it?
- 'I am like this because.....'
- Use evidence from work experience
- Use evidence from achievements
- Use evidence from voluntary activities **BUT** not, for example 'I am a good at team work because I play in a team'.

