

BHASVIC

Introduction to Personal Statements

Reflections
UCAS Intro

**Personal
Statement
Intro**

Personal
Statements by
paragraph



Personal Statements Intro

What are admission tutors looking for?

Aims of Session

- * To refresh ourselves of key dates in the UCAS process
- * To understand what makes a successful application
- * To be able to avoid common mistakes

UCAS Timeline

- * June onwards Research & Shortlist, Open Days
- * **NOW Complete Personal Statements and fill in UCAS form**
- * **October/November Apply Sessions (by appointment)**
- * **24th November Internal UCAS Deadline** – BHASVIC GUARANTEES THAT YOUR REFERENCE WILL BE SENT BEFORE THE UCAS DEADLINE
- * **15th January** National UCAS Deadline
- * Oct to March Decisions made
- * Dec to April Applicant Visit Days
- * End of April Decision time on where to accept
- * August Confirmation of Results & Clearing
- * October Start of University academic year

UCAS Tariff

- * **Many universities still ask for 3 grades in their offers e.g. BBB**
- * **Some will ask for points**
- * **Check the tariff!**

A level UCAS Tariff

A levels

| | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| A* | 56 (equiv D* at BTEC Sub Dip) |
| A | 48 |
| B | 40 |
| C | 32 (28 is A* for EPQ) |
| D | 24 (20 points is A at AS level) |
| E | 16 |

AS levels (40% A level)

| | |
|---|----|
| A | 20 |
| B | 16 |
| C | 12 |
| D | 10 |
| E | 6 |

Extended Project (higher tariff than AS)

| | |
|----|----|
| A* | 28 |
| A | 24 |
| B | 20 |
| C | 16 |
| D | 12 |
| E | 8 |

BTEC UCAS Tariff

And their equivalents at full A level

BTEC Certificate

| | |
|----|----------|
| D* | 28 (C/D) |
| D | 24 |
| M | 16 (E) |
| P | 8 |

BTEC Subsidiary Diploma

| | |
|----|---------|
| D* | 56 (A*) |
| D | 48 (A) |
| M | 32 (C) |
| P | 16 (E) |

BTEC Diploma

| | |
|------|------------|
| D*D* | 112 (A*A*) |
| D*D | 104 (BBD) |
| DD | 96 (AA) |
| DM | 80 |
| MM | 64 |
| MP | 48 (DD) |
| PP | 32 |

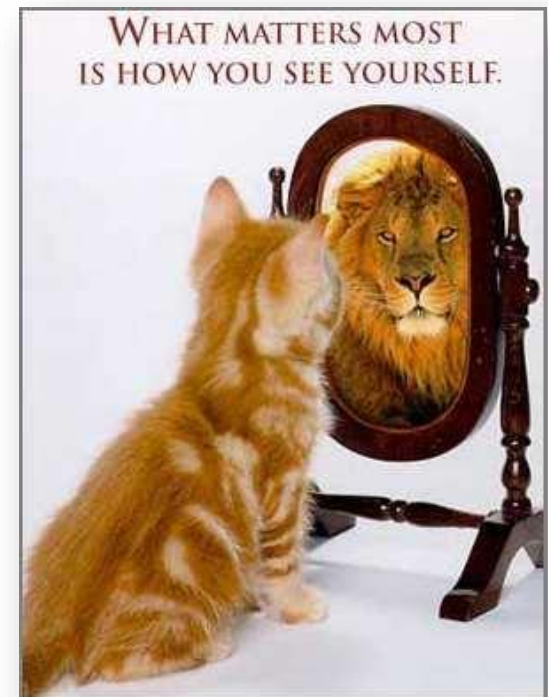
BTEC Extended Diploma

| | |
|--------|--------------|
| D*D*D* | 168 (A*A*A*) |
| D*D*D | 160 |
| D*DD | 152 |
| DDD | 144 |
| DDM | 128 (ABB) |
| DMM | 112 |
| MMM | 96 (CCC) |
| MMP | 80 (BB) |
| MPP | 64 |
| PPP | 48 |

There are lots of online UCAS calculators – try googling them

What Makes a Successful Application?

- * Can you think of key areas / mentions that make a successful Personal Statement?
- * Save the Personal Statement Workbook to your own space (it is designed to help you work on it in your own time) and make notes – add ideas as we feed back as a whole group



What Makes a Successful Application?

- * **Grades**
- * **Well rounded student**
- * **Active inside and outside the classroom**
- * **Voluntary work**
- * **Evidences skills and qualities**
- * **Relates skills and qualities to the degree**



What happens to your statement?

- * Your statement needs to be checked internally at BHASVIC in order to ensure that it is correct and we will attach your college reference.



- * UCAS will send it to relevant universities to be considered by admissions tutors

Personal Statements

Why are they so important?

- * Important life skill
- * University places highly competitive
- * Your opportunity to sell yourself
- * Many courses do not interview
- * Better statement = more offers = more choice!



Personal Statements: Style and Appearance

- * This is a formal application
- * 4,000 characters (inc. spaces)/47 lines
- * Think about the structure
- * 5 / 6 paragraphs of equal length
- * Write the statement using word processing software and then paste this in to Apply
- * Make sure your spelling, grammar and punctuation are perfect!

Structure

- * There is no formal structure for a personal statement, but generally...
- * 70/30 academic/skills qualities

Example structure:

- * **Intro:** Subject intro, how I made my decision and my interests in the subject
- * **S1:** Academic subjects studies and how they relate to choice of course
- * **S2:** Academic subjects – experience and wider interest outside the classroom
- * **S3:** What other related activities I've done and my career aspirations
- * **S4:** Other information about my interests hobbies etc. related to subject and skills
- * **S5:** Conclusion. Sum up what I have to offer and why I should be chosen

Some common mistakes to watch out for

- * **Length** – draft may be extremely long or too short
- * **Paragraph order** – it needs to make sense
- * **Too much time spent on hobbies/pastimes** – you are going to Uni to study and that should be the bulk of your statement
- * **Spelling, punctuation and grammar**
- * Not enough **interest / motivation** for the subject

Some common mistakes to watch out for

- * Reasons for **course unclear** and **not at the beginning**
- * **Transferable skills** from other academic courses not highlighted e.g. essay writing skills, data handling skills, organisation, research
- * No reference to **course specific requirements** (e.g. Physiotherapy requires work experience)
- * Lots of **competition** and personal statement not as strong as others

Other things to bear in mind..

- * **Plagiarism** – Google “help with my UCAS statement” and you get over 100 000 hits.
- * UCAS are aware of this and now use **plagiarism software** to detect such things e.g. the 233 medicine applicants whose “love of science” began when as a child they had all burned a hole in their pyjamas
- * If the UCAS software picks out suspected plagiarism your application is **automatically rejected** and you will be informed of this.

Things to include

Although not exhaustive, you should think about the following:

- * What course do you want to study?
- * What interests you about it?
- * How well suited are you to the subject?
- * How are your current studies related to the course?
- * Are you conscientious, hardworking and committed?
- * How will you show enthusiasm for the course?
- * Hobbies? Do you have any career plans that are related?
- * Experiences and interests do you have and how are they related?

Personal Statements

What universities are looking for

- * Have they chosen the **right subject** for the right reasons?
- * Can they **survive at university level** – are they mature enough?
- * Do they have a **range of interests** and aptitudes?
- * Does the personal statement confirm their **depth of interest** in the subject?
- * What has the candidate **studied independently**?

Summary

- * Why have you chosen this course?
- * Why do you want to go to university?
- * What makes you a suitable candidate?

Transferable skills

- * Hobbies
- * Interests
- * Work experience/volunteering
- * Previous study



Questions to ask yourself?

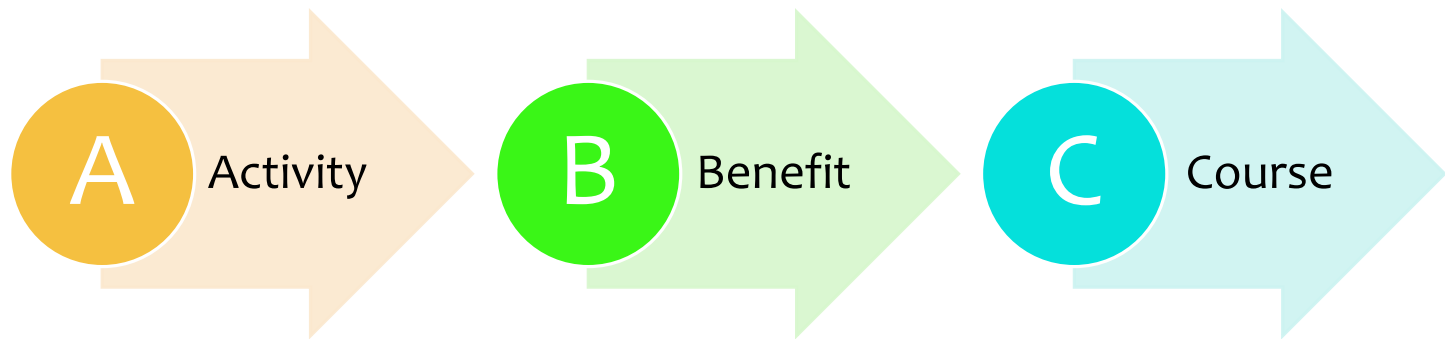
| | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Which element of the subject do you enjoy the most and why?</p> | <p>What would you say has been your biggest achievement and why?</p> | <p>Has anyone/anything motivated you? If so, who/what and why?</p> | <p>Do you have a favourite book, movie, hobby? How have they influenced you?</p> |
| <p>Have you had to overcome any particular barriers?</p> | <p>Have you worked hard for something and finally achieved your goal?</p> | <p>Where do you see yourself in 5 years time?</p> | <p>What would your friends/family say if they were writing your statement?</p> |

The Even Harder Part

How to include it

- * Don't just state facts, elaborate on them to explain why they make you a **fantastic candidate**
- * Even better – if you can relate this back to the course

Remember



Transferable skills

Communications

- Computer Literacy
- Public Speaker

Interpersonal Skills

- Diplomacy
- Committed

Independent Worker

- Problem Solving
- Entrepreneurial

Team Worker

- Organisation
- Project Management

Flexibility

- Initiative
- Trustworthy

Conscientious

- Deadlines
- Reliable

Organisation

- Determination
- Time Manager

Experience & Skills developed

Drama Production

Teamwork

Confidence

Commitment

Sports captain

Leadership

Time Management

Organisational skills

Voluntary Charity

Passion and drive

Communication

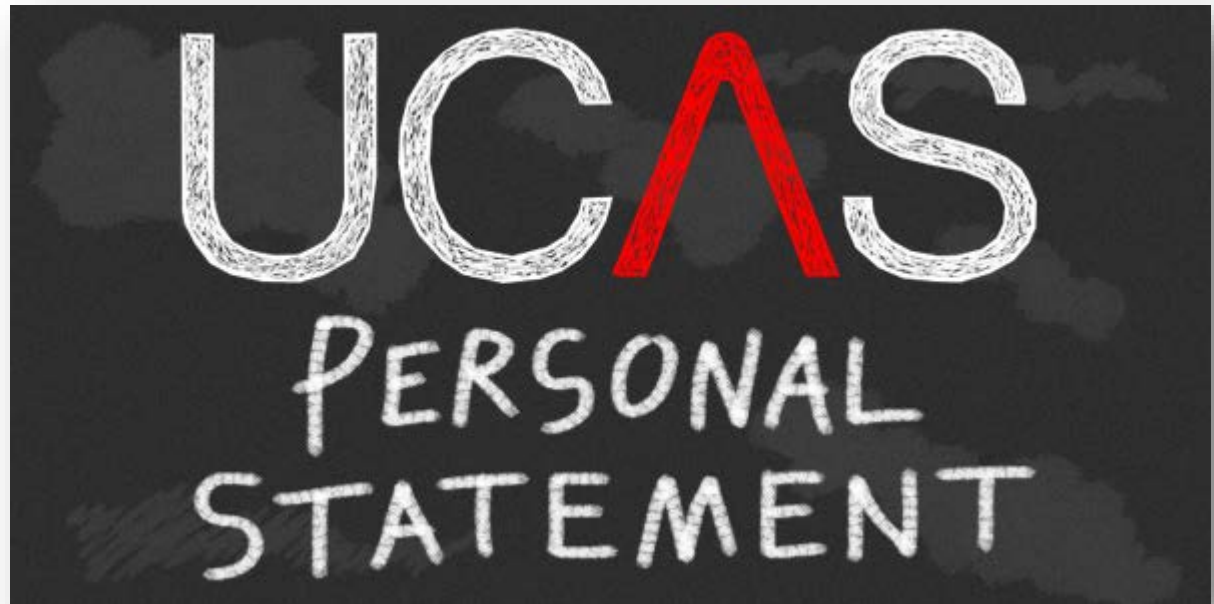
Enthusiasm

How do I start it? Politics...

- * At university I want to study politics
- * My passion for politics began when...
- * They say money makes the world go round, so if politicians control our budgets, do they rule the world?"
- * Stalin, Hitler, Thatcher, Marx, Blair – all, allegedly, were politicians.
- * Whether we like, or even realise it, politics influences the entire world. If we want an opinion on it, I believe we have a responsibility to understand it.
- * The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." Roosevelt realised in order to make change, you have to try...

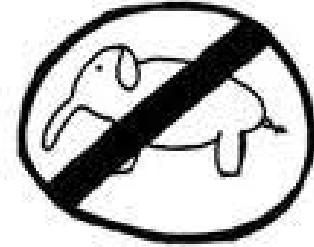
Writing a Personal Statement DO!

- * Be relevant
- * Be specific
- * Be original
- * Be honest
- * Be Engaging



Writing a Personal Statement DON'T!

- * Don't mention specific institutions
- * Don't go mad with a thesaurus
- * Don't include irrelevant information
- * Don't exaggerate or lie
- * Don't write in lists
- * Don't try to include everything
- * Don't repeat yourself



Anything that is unrelated
to elephants is irrelephant.

Admission Officers - Big DON'Ts

- * I am currently studying a BTEC National Diploma in ... (used 464 times)
- * From a young age I have always been interested in ... (309 times)
- * From an early age I have always been interested in ... (292 times)
- * Nursing is a very challenging and demanding career ... (275 times)
- * For as long as I can remember I have been fascinated with ... (196 times)

Admission Officers - Big DON'Ts

- * "Fashion is not something that exists in dresses only" ... (189 times)
- * Nursing is a profession I have always looked upon with ... (178 times)
- * For as long as I can remember I have been interested in ... (166 times)
- * I am an International Academy student & have been studying since ... (141 times)
- * Academically, I have always been a very determined and ... (138 times)

Checklist

- * • Impressive?
- *
- * • Convincing?
- * • Researched?
- * • Interesting?
- * • Positive?

APPROVED
UNIVERSITY
APPLICATION