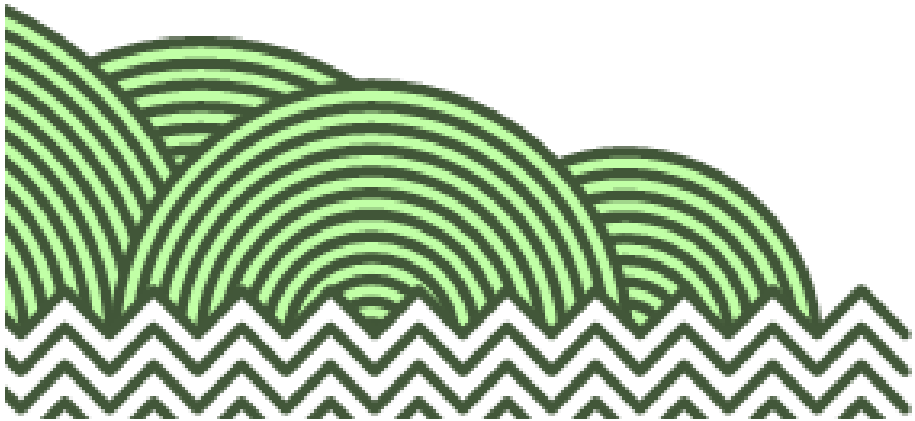


# **A2 UCAS Personal Statements Intro, Structure & Question 1**



**Week 2**

# UCAS Recap

**You should have attended the UCAS intro session which will have given you lots of useful information on how to complete the UCAS process.**

**If you didn't attend for any reason, please catch up with the PowerPoint here [A2 UCAS pathway through the year & Tutorial Resources](#)**

# Personal Statements

## Why are they so important?

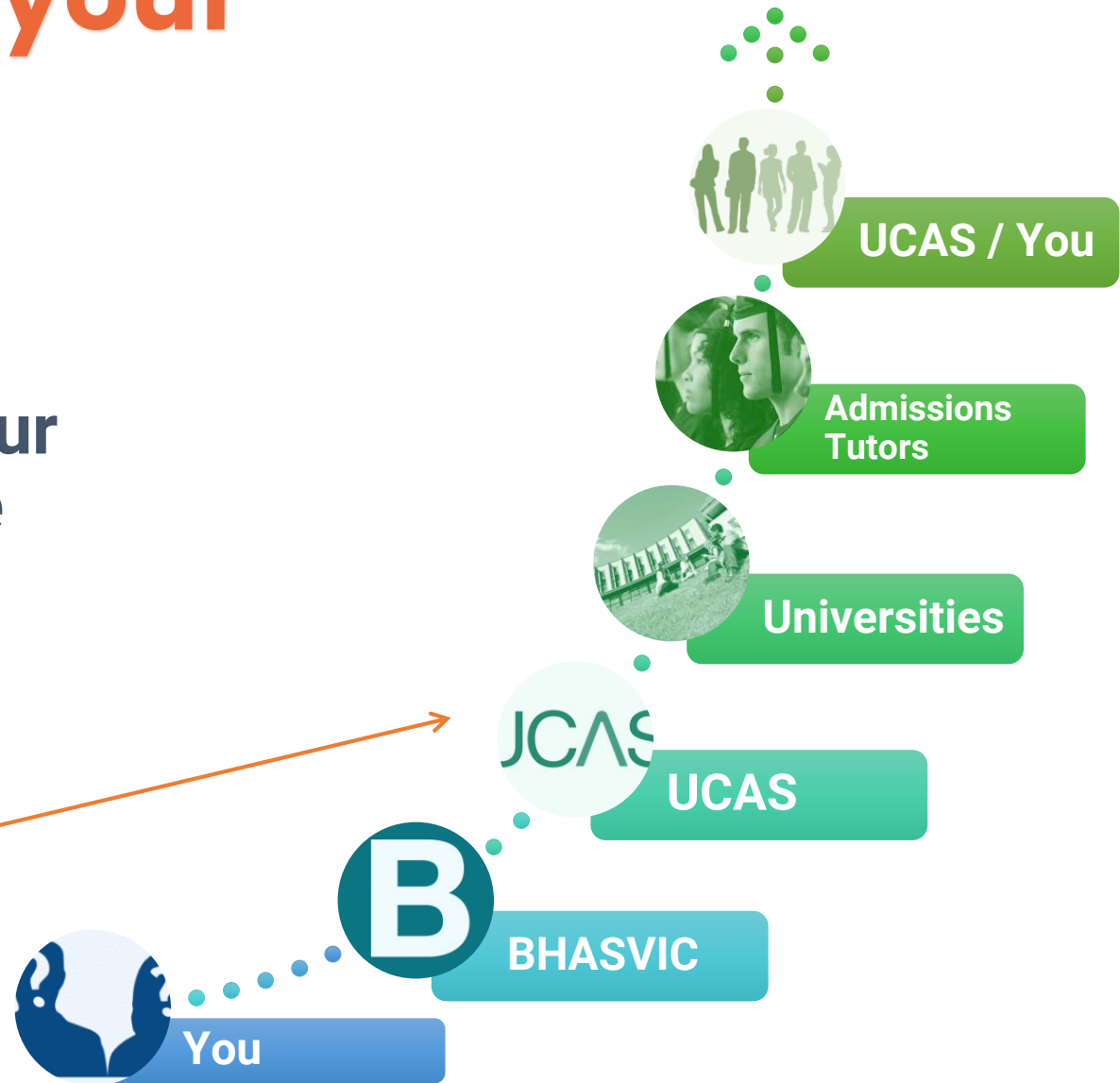
- Important life skill – also CVs
- University places highly competitive
- Your opportunity to sell yourself
- Many courses do not interview
- Better statement = more offers = more choice!



# What happens to your statement?

- Your tutor will check your statement and you will add it to your UCAS Apply form. Your college reference will also be attached and we will send to UCAS.

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



# Personal Statements: Style and Appearance

- This is a formal application
- 4,000 characters (inc. spaces) *in total*
- Write the statement using word processing software and then paste this in to your Apply form
- Make sure your spelling, grammar and punctuation are perfect!
- Top tip – read it out loud to yourself

# What universities are looking for

- Have you chosen the **right subject** for the right reasons?
- Can you **survive at university level** – are you mature enough?
- Do you have a **range of interests** and aptitudes?
- Do the answers confirm your **depth of interest** in the subject?
- What have you **studied independently**?

# Some common mistakes

- **Too much time on hobbies/pastimes** – you are going to Uni to study and that should be the bulk of your statement
- **Cliches** – ‘love of science’ interested since an early age....’ etc.
- Not enough **interest / motivation** for the subject
- Reasons for **course unclear** and **not at the beginning**
- **Transferable skills** –not enough evidence of skills gained – life and academic
- No reference to **course specific requirements** (e.g. Physiotherapy requires work experience)

Try not to look at too much stuff online

...and leave the first and last lines ‘til last - they are the hardest to write.

Be yourself as you write - they want to hear from you

# Use of AI and Plagiarism

- Quite simply don't!
- **DO NOT Plagiarise** – it has to reflect YOU.  
Sophisticated software will pick up plagiarism and in the past two years we have had students **rejected from all their choices** as they used part of Personal Statements copied from elsewhere.



- **UCAS says:**

- When you complete your application, you now have to declare that you haven't copied elsewhere including artificial intelligence software.
- As part of our responsibility to applicants and universities and colleges, the UCAS Verification Team run checks to detect fraudulent applications and patterns of similarity in personal statements. Read our **guide to fraud and verification and similarity**.



# New Change for 25-26 entry

- This year UCAS have introduced a new format which *should make it easier to complete*
- Previously it was one long statement – now it is three questions

The screenshot displays the UCAS application form interface. On the left is a vertical navigation menu with the following items: 'Personal details' (selected with a blue circle icon), 'Nationality details' (checked with a green tick), 'Where you live' (checked with a green tick), 'Contact details' (checked with a green tick), 'Supporting information' (checked with a green tick), 'Finance and funding' (blue circle icon), 'Diversity and inclusion' (checked with a green tick), 'More about you' (blue circle icon), 'Education' (blue circle icon), 'Employment' (checked with a green tick), 'Extra activities' (blue circle icon), and 'Personal statement' (underlined in blue). The main content area is titled 'Personal statement' and includes a guide: 'Our guide to writing your personal statement (opens in a new window) should help you complete this section. You have up to 4,000 characters (including spaces) to use across these three sections.' Below this is a warning: 'Make sure your personal statement is your own work. UCAS will carry out checks to verify that what you submit is original.' A character count box in the top right corner shows 'Overall character count 0 / 4000'. The first question is 'Why do you want to study this course or subject? \*', followed by a text box and a note: 'Please use a minimum of 350 characters in this section (350 needed)'. The second question is 'How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject? \*', followed by another text box and the same 350-character minimum note.

Personal details

✓ Nationality details

✓ Where you live

✓ Contact details

✓ Supporting information

Finance and funding

✓ Diversity and inclusion

More about you

Education

✓ Employment

Extra activities

Personal statement

Our guide to writing your personal statement (opens in a new window) should help you complete this section. You have up to 4,000 characters (including spaces) to use across these three sections.

Make sure your personal statement is your own work. UCAS will carry out checks to verify that what you submit is original.

Overall character count  
0 / 4000

**Why do you want to study this course or subject? \***

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why they are a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

Please use a minimum of 350 characters in this section (350 needed)

**How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject? \***

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

Please use a minimum of 350 characters in this section (350 needed)

# Question 1

- **Why do you want to study this course or subject?**
- **This is the opportunity for you to showcase your passion, curiosity, interest, and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.**

# Question 2

- **How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?**
- **This is the chance for you to show evidence of the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how this will help you succeed in this subject area.**

# Question 3

- **What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?**
- **This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of formal education or personal experiences which further demonstrate suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.**

Remember it is individual to you and you don't need to include everything.

Each one of you will be different

# Important to note

- UCAS has an overall character count of **4000 characters WITH SPACES**).
- Depending on you and your course choices each question length might well be different. **There is no set length**. For example applying to Medicine will require lots about work experience, other courses such as Music may be more super-curricular.
- It will be **individual to you**.
- Each question **does have a minimum amount of 350 characters** - which is a few sentences.

tion. You

Overall character count

0 / 4000

submit is

Please use a minimum of 350 characters in this section (350 needed)

# We are now going to look at Question 1 in more depth

- **Your motivations for studying this course(s)**
- **Have you been inspired by a key role model or moment in your life? Maybe it's a subject you love and want to pursue further. We're all driven by something and it's important to talk about how yours has led you to this course or subject area.**

# We are now going to look at Question 1 in more depth

- **Your knowledge of this subject area and interests**
- Perhaps there's a particular subject area you've researched and can't wait to learn more about. A book or subject expert doing great things that have sparked your interest? Universities and colleges want to see you have done your research so they can be confident this is something you will enjoy and excel in. This is a great place to highlight super-curricular activities as evidence of curiosity and interest in the subject outside of the classroom.

# We are now going to look at Question 1 in more depth

- **Your future plans and why this is a good fit for you**
- If you already have a particular profession in mind you could talk about how you'll use this to launch your career. If you don't, think about what's important to you and your future, and how the knowledge gained from your chosen course(s) will help you achieve this.



# Before we complete the activity we will look more closely at Super-Curricular

- We all know the term extra-curricular?
- Can you give examples?
- So Super-curricular?
- Can you give examples?
- And when does Extra-Curricular become Super-curricular?

# Fortunately departments have done a lot of the hard work for you on our Super-Curricular pages

- Take a browse for suggestions.
- Remember you have limited space on the personal statement question so pick an area you are interested in and talk about it in detail. Find a podcast. Magazine article, programme on estream, short course - all sorts of things count. Try and reflect an academic argument.



# Each subject page has these links

- The **Library Hub** is great – talk to our librarians – they will help!
- The **UCAS Subject Spotlights** are lectures you can refer to and the **UCAS WEX** is great too! Check it out



Library Hub Business BTEC Subject Resources



Library Hub Business A level Subject Resources



Library Hub Economics Subject Resources



Estream for Business & Economics



UCAS Subject Spotlights



UCAS Virtual WEX

# Activity Question 1

- You will now complete a sheet that will help you get some of your ideas down for Question 1. Use people on your table for ideas.
- You will use this as to complete an Assignment before next week so try and keep it fairly neat so you can read it later.
- Make notes – do not try full sentences, you can do that later.
- Stuck? Make notes of what you might need to do in order to answer the question.

# Last thoughts, we can make sure we present ourselves in the best possible light

- “I want to go to university because it has a good social life”
- “I think a university education would broaden my social and intellectual horizons”



- “I play in a band which I spend a lot of time doing”
- “For relaxation, I play guitar to a good standard”



**Much better!**



# Assignment Week 2

- You have some ideas on your Activity sheet.
- Complete the **Question 1 assignment set by your tutor** as best you can. We can fine tune it later on - it will probably be a better answer than you might think.
- **No idea about Super-Curricular Activities?** – spend a bit of time looking at this page. Now might be a good time to spend a little time on some of the excellent department suggestions to bump up your answer.
- **Next week we will be looking at Skills and Question 2.**

