



# DSL V

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# **DSL V GUIDE TO PERSONAL STATEMENTS 2016 ENTRY**

## WRITING YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT

### What is it?

The personal statement is an opportunity to demonstrate your suitability for University and the course for which you are applying. You need to highlight what makes you a thoughtful, conscientious student who has a real flair/passion for your chosen course. It is an opportunity to 'sell yourself' and make you stand out from other applicants.

- Make sure you word-process your personal statement. This makes it easier to edit and means that you can just copy and paste it into the application form when it's finished
- The Personal Statement is a **formal application** – don't joke in it!
- Write in paragraphs – you'll lose a line of text between each one but it reads better
- Remember to ask your tutor for help. Keep showing them drafts so that they can make suggestions for improvement – nobody gets it right first time.
- Look up what skills and characteristics your course/university is looking for by using the Entry Profiles on the UCAS website
- Make yourself stand out from the pile – but don't lie!
- Remember that the Personal Statement is for you to show/prove that you have the character, skills and academic ability to be successful on your chosen course. Essentially it should include 'why I want to do this subject and what I have done to learn about it'

Application scoring sheets are available on some university websites – students can view how their application will be scored and assessed. Essentially these are mark schemes that will be scored and assessed. Essentially these are mark schemes that will be valuable to the student.

## SIMILARITY DETECTION TESTS

UCAS will know if you have copied someone else's personal statement:

"We will subject applications to similarity detection tests designed to identify work copied from another source. Do not be tempted to copy another person's application materials, or download your personal statement off the web. There could be serious consequences to using other people's work. If we have cause to question your application, we will inform all

the Universities and Colleges to which you have applied. They will then take the action they consider to be appropriate. We will also contact you by e-mail.”

## PLAN YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT

### **Remember you have 47 lines of text or 4000 characters to complete it**

- Start by explaining why you want to study this particular course at university
- Universities are looking for commitment, interest and enthusiasm
- It should be analytical and reflective, not merely descriptive
- You should write about any relevant (and transferable) skills and abilities you have
- Do NOT start with ‘My name is .....’
- Describe/name the degree courses you are applying for and try to add a sentence at this point to connect your choices with your keen interest in that area and/or possible plans for the future
- You should show a good understanding of the course you have applied for
- Be careful if you are applying for different subjects, the same statement has to cover all courses applied for
- You may want to include any career intention you may have
- Avoid generic phrases like ‘I enjoy reading’, ‘I regularly visit the theatre’ or ‘I regularly listen to music – pop and classical’
- Describe why you are passionate about the subject – but don’t go over the top!
- Write a couple of sentences for each of your AS/A2s, your interest in them and any interesting details, special subjects, study themes, titles of books, field research, experiences abroad, your strengths such as ability to research independently, coursework, hitting deadlines etc.
- Do this for each subject and write a bit more if one or two of them are particularly relevant to your choice of degree course.
- Do not over write this section at the expense of subsequent sections
- Remember you are trying to show evidence that you can cope and benefit from the course for which you are applying
- Write about other achievements and interests in school – D of E, Sports, Leadership roles and other enrichment activities, Music, Charity committee etc., Make sure to emphasise relevant skills – commitment, organisation, ability to work independently, leadership skills, project management, ability to communicate, maturity etc.
- Write about experiences/interests/hobbies out of school. Mention any work experience you have that is relevant. Remember that even mundane work can show you have a range of skills – commitment, communication, dealing with the public

etc., If you are planning to take a gap year give your reasons why/what you are going to do

- Try to finish off by re-emphasising the mature choice you have made in making this application and be confident enough to describe yourself as a good applicant
- Be positive.
- AS a rough rule of thumb:
  - 75% of the PS should be academic (3000 characters / 35 lines)
  - 25% of the PS should be personal (1000 characters / 12 lines)