

# Introduction to writing a Personal Statement

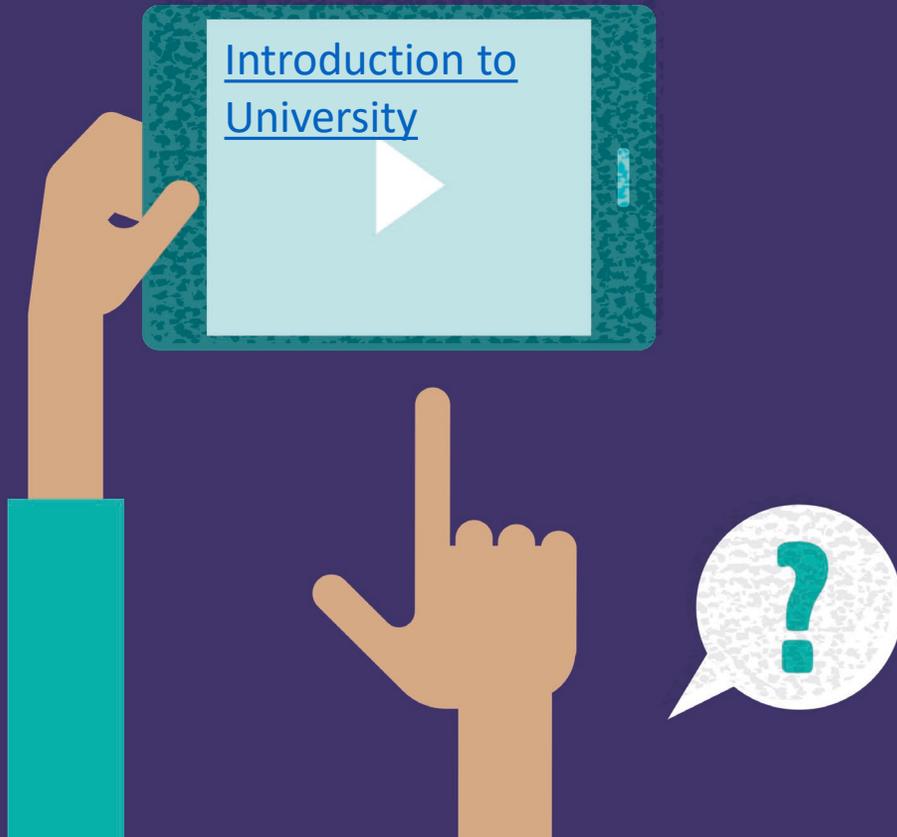
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[takeyourplace.ac.uk](http://takeyourplace.ac.uk)

# TAKE YOUR PLACE



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<https://youtu.be/A7srz0hdmWA>

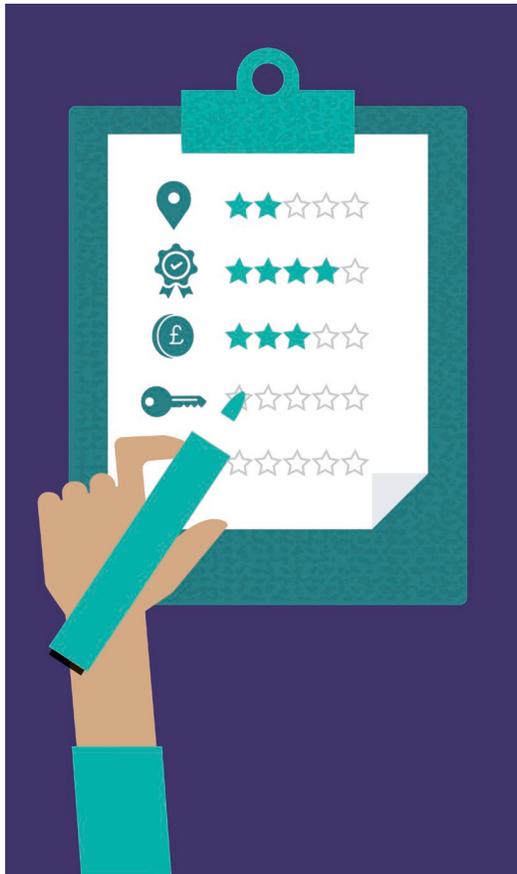
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# What is UCAS?

*Universities and Colleges Admissions Service*

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- ❖ Online application process
- ❖ Manages your higher education application journey
- ❖ You must complete:
  - Personal details
  - Education and employment history
  - Your course choices
  - Personal Statement
- ❖ Your college will complete:
  - Reference

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# Considering applying to university?

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❖ May

UCAS Undergraduate Apply

goes live



❖ July

UCAS Conservatoire Apply

goes live

❖ Early October

Entry deadline for music applications

❖ 15<sup>th</sup> October

Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary and

Dentistry deadline

❖ Last Week in January

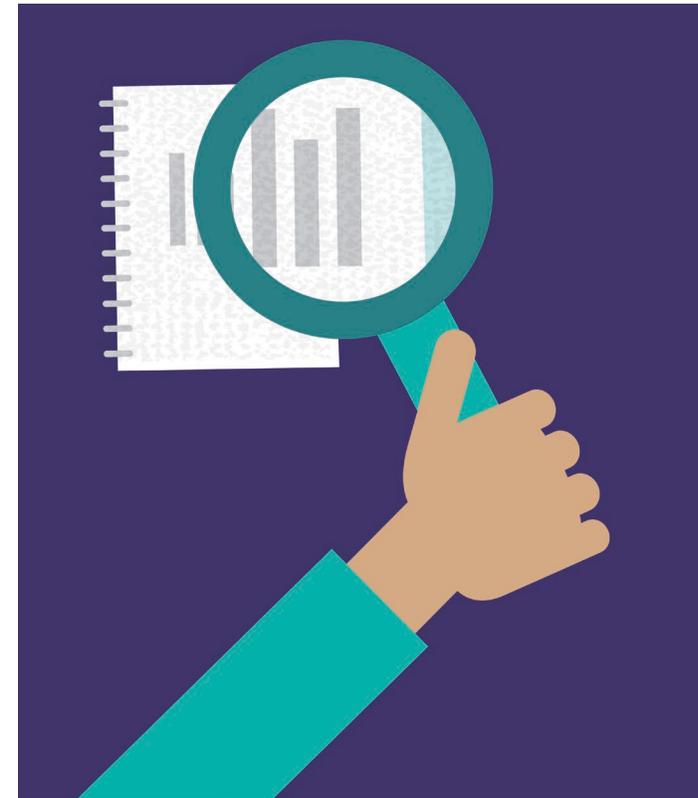
Main UCAS deadline

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# Technical Details

- ❖ Application cost: £20 or £26
- ❖ 4000 characters or 47 lines of text.
  - ❖ Includes spaces and blank lines.
  - ❖ You must write a minimum of 1000 characters
- ❖ The UCAS website will time out after 35minutes.
- ❖ Remember you only get to submit one personal statement
- ❖ If you apply through clearing universities will have access to your personal statement.



# Personal Statement Content

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- What makes you unique?
- What are your ambitions after your degree?
- Enthusiasm and understanding for your subject(s)
- Why right here right now?
- What extra-curricular activities make you better suited for this course?
  - Do they link to your subject?
- Are you taking a gap year?
  - how this will enhance your application and suitability for the course.



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## Write

Add, edit and delete text

## Preview

How it'll look to universities



### Section 1

Why do you want to study this subject?

0 of 1200 characters

Start >



### Section 2

What have you done in the past that makes you particularly suitable to study the subject?

0 of 2400 characters

Start >



### Section 3

What else have you done that would contribute to the university community?

Start >

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# Tips and Mistakes to Avoid

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There is no 'one size fits all' rule

No two personal statements are the same

Showcase what makes you stand out from the next student

Efficient use of words

Avoid stock phrases and clichés

Avoid rambling

Don't talk about specific universities

Find the balance between modesty and arrogance

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<https://youtu.be/-eiG62XAQP4>

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# Personal Statement Examples

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- ❖ My school and community are important to me; I am a prefect and volunteer at my local primary school, helping students with their literacy and numeracy.
- ❖ Texts like *The Great Gatsby* have provided me with many moments of questioning, leaving me to decide whether I believe Gatsby's love for Daisy is true. Whilst one could argue convincingly for either side, I choose to believe that his image of her is too distorted for him to truly love her as she is.
- ❖ Being well organised and committed, I am able to take on a challenge and cope with lots of work. I set myself high standards and I have an optimistic approach to my work
- ❖ 'Eighty per cent of success is showing up.' I feel this attitude correctly demonstrates my passion for Literature where, indeed, you only have to 'turn up' and read the books and to fully understand the topic.
- ❖ What is physics? I don't know; that's why I want to take it at university.

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# Any questions?

