

UCAS Personal Statements

Jane Murphy
Schools and Colleges Liaison Officer

University of Huddersfield



What we will cover

The importance of
personal statements

Personal statement
do's and don'ts

Areas to cover in a
personal statement

UCAS Applications
and personal
statements

Where to find out
more...

Why are personal statements so important?

Chance to justify your course choice

An opportunity to demonstrate your enthusiasm, potential and suitability

The personal statement is the only bit of "you" that admissions tutors get to see

It could be the difference between getting and not getting a place

A good personal statement will give you an edge over other applicants



The Assistant Registrar for Undergraduate Admissions from University of Warwick says:

'For highly competitive courses which attract applications from many more candidates than there are places, comparing all applicants' personal statements helps us to identify the most committed and suitable candidates'.

2018

apply **Reference**

< [Log out](#)

Welcome	
Personal details	...
Choices	...
Education	...
Employment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reference	<input type="checkbox"/>
View all details	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pay/Send	<input type="checkbox"/>
Help	
Options/Opsiyau	

Welcome > Reference

Our [guide to obtaining a reference \(opens in a new window\)](#) will help you complete this section. Click on and print the [advice and guidance for referees for independent applicants](#), which you can give to your referee.

Compulsory fields are marked with an asterisk (*). Before leaving this page, click 'save' to avoid losing any of your information.

Need guidance? Watch the video advice below [\[Hide video\]](#).



(Unable to view videos here? You can watch them at www.ucas.com/connect/videos instead)

Key

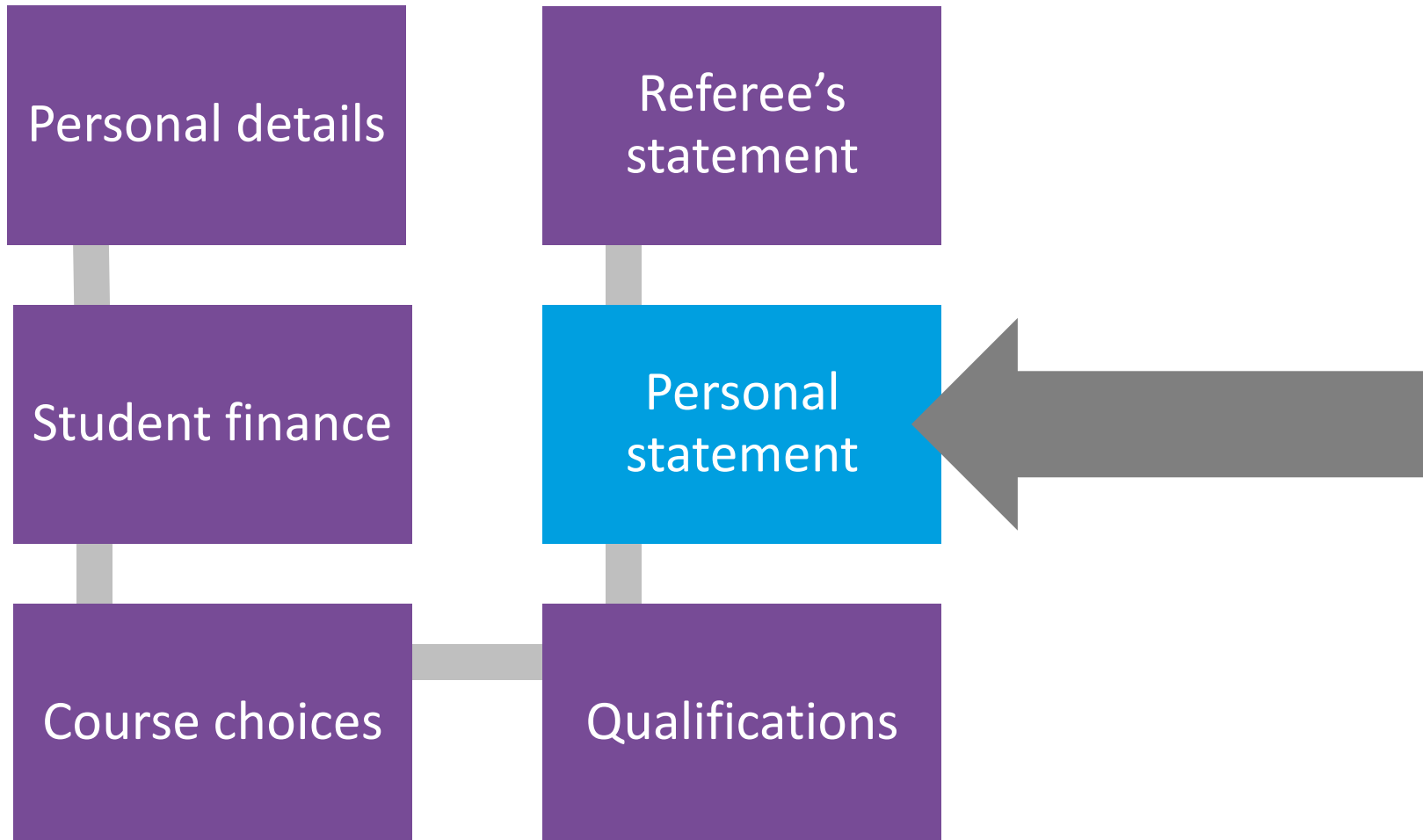
Completed

In progress

Not started

Referee details [Clear referee details](#)

The application



UCAS Personal Statement – What do you need to write about?



Reasons for choosing the course

- Remember that the Admission Tutor reading your statement is an academic in your chosen area of interest and will therefore want to know why you chose the subject and wish to study it at a higher level

Why does this subject interest you?

What is your motivation?

How long have you wanted to study it?

Is the subject linked to your existing programmes of study?



Suitability and understanding of the course

Describe what you know about the course

Prove that you're interested, tell them what you can offer

Talk about different qualities you have

What research and wider reading have you undertaken?

Have you experienced the course or career area through Taster Days or work experience?



Career aspirations

- You only need include this if it is linked to your chosen course, for example if you are applying for a professional subject such as nursing or teaching



Relevant work or personal
experience

Refer to your personal skills
and qualities



Work and voluntary experience

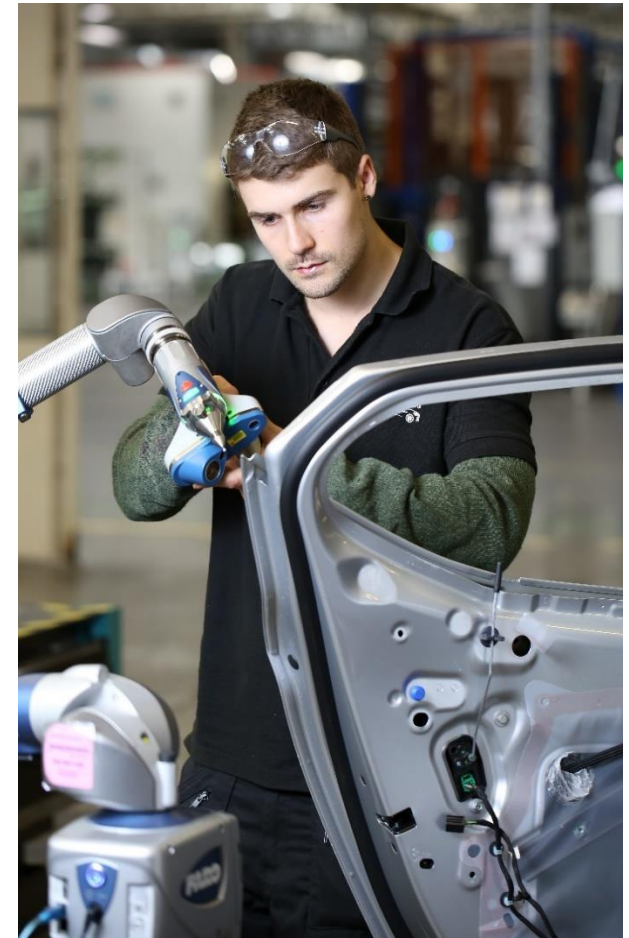
- Outline the duration of your work experience, the tasks undertaken and the skills and understanding you gained

Don't worry if your experience doesn't seem as elaborate as everyone else's

Show them what you learnt, not what you did

Be prepared to evidence your skills using specific examples

Don't lie!



Skills and abilities

- Universities like to know the skills you have that will help you on the course, or generally with life at university

Try to focus on two or three key skills, rather than a long list and give examples to back this up

Do you have any particular skills and experience that will help you to succeed on the course(s)?

Relevant skills might include time management, independent study, research and leadership/team working skills

Any attributes that make you interesting, special or unique

Extra-curricular achievements

- To make yourself stand out from other applicants, provide examples of your extra-curricular achievements

Duke of
Edinburgh

Enterprise
schemes

Extra-curricular
achievements

Sporting
activities

Musical
achievements

Language
skills

Other interests

- Discuss your interests, hobbies and the other pursuits that you have been involved in outside of school



Do you contribute towards your community in some way?

Are you the captain of a local sports team?



How to begin your UCAS Personal Statement: the opening sentence

The top 10 most overused personal statement opening sentences

1. I am currently studying a BTEC National Diploma in ... (used 464 times)
2. From a young age I have always been interested in ... (309 times)
3. From an early age I have always been interested in ... (292 times)
4. Nursing is a very challenging and demanding career ... (275 times)
5. For as long as I can remember I have been fascinated with ... (196 times)
6. Fashion is not something that exists in dresses only” ... (189 times)
7. Nursing is a profession I have always looked upon with ... (178 times)
8. For as long as I can remember I have been interested in ... (166 times)
9. I am an International Academy student and have been studying since ... (141 times)
10. Academically, I have always been a very determined and ... (138 times)

Tips to writing a killer opening sentence

Go straight in. Why are you excited about studying this course?

Don't waste time trying to think of a catchy opening; it's often a complete turn-off

It's better to engage with something interesting, relevant, specific and current in the opening line

Be specific from line one

What you want to study and why should be in the first two sentences

Write what comes naturally

Remember...

The Personal Statement is an advert about YOU!



Personal Statement: Do's and Don'ts

Do's



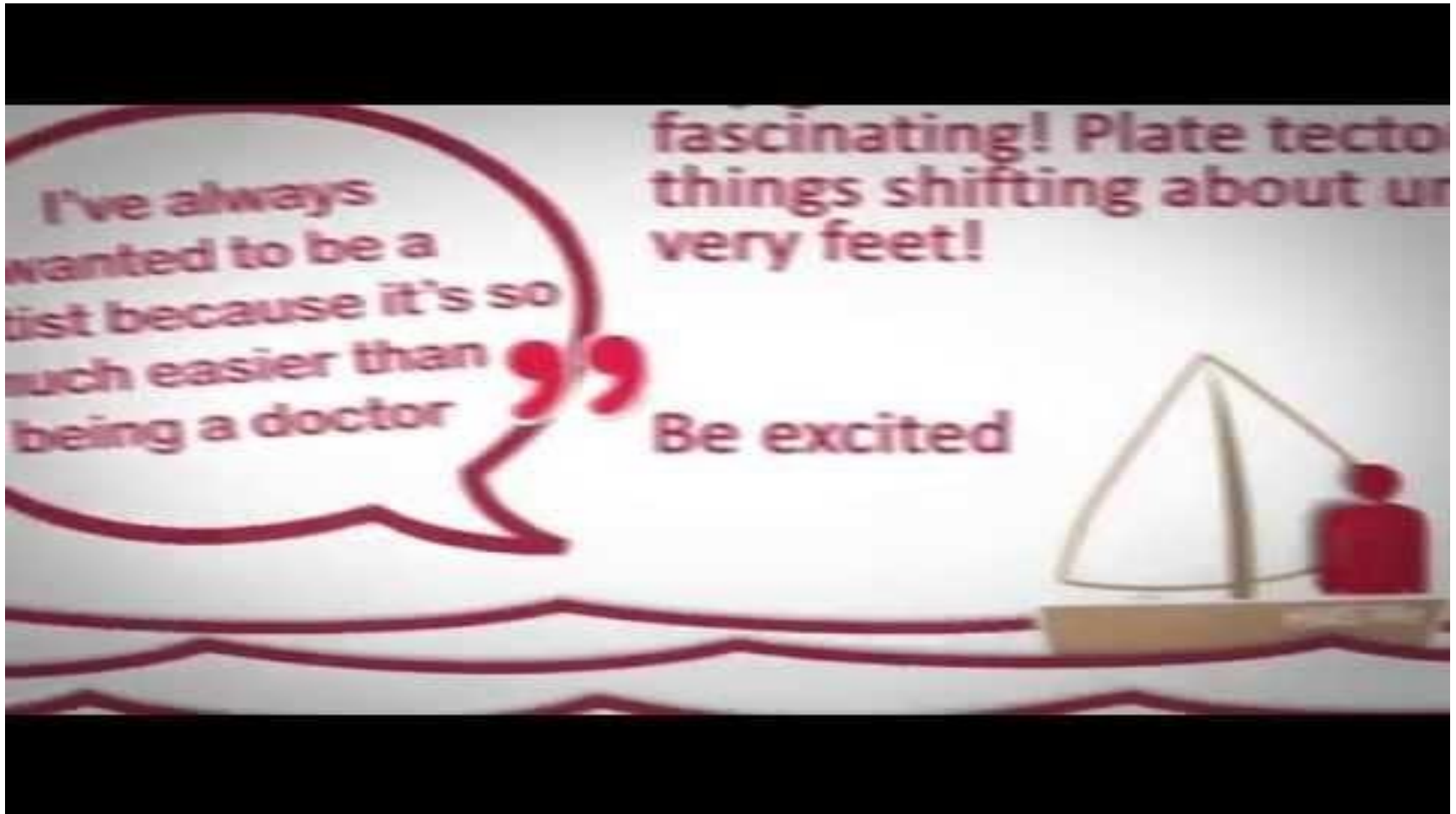
- ✓ Say why you want to study the course
- ✓ Refer to your current studies – what you enjoy and why
- ✓ Do proofread – correct spelling and grammar
- ✓ Talk about work/voluntary experience
- ✓ Do be honest

Don'ts



- X Lie
- X Don't be too vague
- X Mention experiences without stating the skills you have gained
- X Apply for too many different kinds of courses
- X Don't plagiarise

How to write a UCAS Undergraduate personal statement





Need to write your personal statement?

Not sure where to start?

Your personal statement is your chance to describe the ambitions, skills and experience that will make you right for your choices. We've developed this tool to get you thinking about what to include.

Get started >

Please view this web app in either Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Safari or Internet Explorer 10 and above.





How To Write a Brilliant UCAS Personal Statement

Sign up to be part of our community today

Are you an International UCAS Student?

Student Finance Applications 2016

Download our new Ebook guide today

What's new

- Student Revision & Study Guides
- Student Blogs
- Gap Year Blogs
- Choosing a Gap year agency
- Student Jobs & Careers Guides

From the blog

- International Student Tips: Preparing for Life at a UK University
- Making Firm and Insurance UCAS Choices
- Why Vocational Qualifications Are Not a Waste of Time
- Applying for Midwifery
- How to apply for teacher training courses

Latest tweets

If you are not sure which #alevels to take, our guide has some great ideas to help you choose...
<https://t.co/MUPa8arutO>

Going to apply to a US College? We have lots of great info to get you started!
<https://t.co/Yz60MJJaul> #highered #studyabroad

If you are working on your #dissertation, don't lose precious marks through poor #referencing...
<https://t.co/nNQJIK3Ofz>



Ask a question

log in

sign up

Search The Student Room...



Exam help»

CREDIT CARDS

GET 0% ON PURCHASES FOR UP TO 12 MONTHS

HALIFAX

To keep these offers, you'll need to keep within your credit limit and make at least your minimum payments on time each month.

- Home
- Forums
- GCSE
- A-level
- Applying to uni
- University
- Careers & jobs
- Relationships & health
- News & entertainment
- Student finance

Welcome to The Student Room

- ✓ **The largest** student community in the world - over 1.8m members
- ✓ **Discuss anything** - universities, health, lifestyle, relationships & more!
- ✓ **FREE uni** application help and **revision tools**



Join now in 30 seconds

Username

Email address

Password

Birthday Day Mon Year

I agree to the [Ts & Cs](#), [privacy policy](#) and [site rules](#), and to receiving communications related to my account.

slide to join now

[Activate your account by email instead](#)



Could cramming work for you?
How to cram without losing your mind

University vs Girlfriend?
Help this member decide

How to get an A* in Maths
Boost your grades with Manisha's study tips

- Latest discussions
- Trending
- Editor's picks

Today on TSR

Thank you for listening
– any questions?



**Huddersfield is first in
England for professionally
qualified teaching staff***

*HEFCE, 9 Dec 2016



Meet amazing people.
Do amazing things.

Every thing starts now



Open Days 2019

Saturday 28 September

Saturday 19 October

Wednesday 6 November

Friday 29 November

9.30am – 3.00pm

<http://www.hud.ac.uk/open-days/>



**Huddersfield is first in
England for professionally
qualified teaching staff***

*HEFCE, 9 Dec 2016



Meet amazing people.
Do amazing things.

Every thing starts now

