

Personal Statements

Discover
Brunel

What is a personal statement?

The basics

The personal statement is an important part of your university application. It's your chance to write about personal and educational achievements linked to what you want to study at university and why. It's best to write your personal statement once you've made your course choices. You only write one statement for all of your course and university choices.

At Brunel all personal statements are read when we assess your application. They are particularly important in borderline cases based on your predicted grades and our entry requirements.

How long should a personal statement be?

The maximum length is around 47 lines or one side of A4 in size 12 font with spaces. It might seem long, but it needs to include a number of different points about you so you will have to think carefully about the key points to put across. The first draft you produce is unlikely to be the final draft. Write the first draft on a document you can save and edit before uploading onto your UCAS application.

When do I have to complete my personal statement by?

For the majority of courses, the deadline to complete an application is 15 January. Courses in Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentistry have an earlier deadline in October.

What to include:

A-B-C method:

Use the A-B-C (Activity - Benefit - Cause) method to structure what you write about. Include what you have done, the skills and experience you have gained and how this links to the course you are applying for.

Aspects to consider:

- Current studies
- Personal achievements
- Extra-curricular activities
- Hobbies and interests
- Aspirations for the future

Top Tips!

Plan early:

Compile a list of all the great things you have achieved so far. Keep it concise and then expand points further.

Be motivated:

It is important to show why you want to study the course that you are applying for. Where did your passion start? How has it encouraged you to get to where you are now?

Structure:

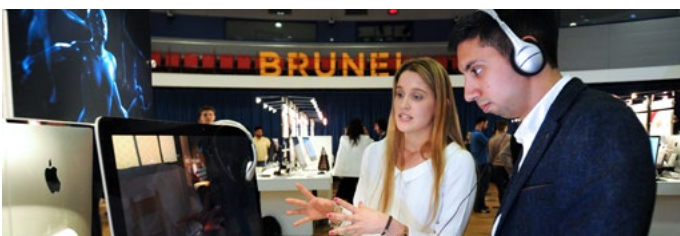
Structure your personal statement carefully. The majority (50-75%) should explain why you want to study your chosen course. Read it out loud and if it makes sense when you're reading it, it will make sense to someone else.

Proofread:

Try to also avoid using complicated language when writing. Before you complete your application, check your spelling and grammar and ask others to proofread for minor errors before submitting!

Think ahead:

Tell us where you see yourself in the future and how university will contribute to your career plans.



Personal statement template

Use the following template and consider the points in your personal statement. Write in the boxes provided.

About the course:

Why are you interested in applying for the course(s)?

How do your current or previous studies relate to the course you are applying for?

Personal achievements and skills:

List any relevant skills you have gained from your studies that will help you on your course:

What three words describe you the most? How can you incorporate these into your personal statement?

List any achievements you have gained in or out of school/ college that help you to stand out compared to others:

Do you have any hobbies which help you to demonstrate your particular skills? Can you link them to your chosen course?

Work experience:

Describe any work experience, part-time job or voluntary role you have undertaken and link any experiences or skills to the course:

Future plans:

What would you like to achieve once you have completed the course? How will the knowledge you have gained relate to what you want to do in the future?