



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Tips for your UCAS personal statement



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June 2021



What will help your application?





UNIVERSITY OF
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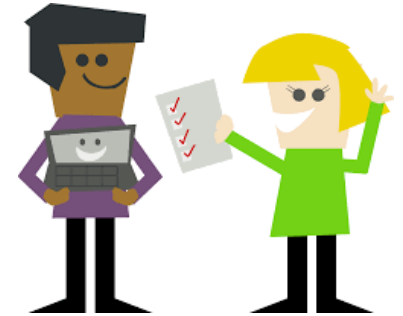


**You must choose
the right course
at the right place
for you**



What do Admissions Tutors look for?

- Apply in time
- Reference
- Will you be able to cope with the academic demands of the course?
- Do you meet the entry requirements?



Meet the entry requirements



- What are they?
- Are they realistic?
- Are there any specific requirements? E.g. GCSE, A Levels, IB, BTEC, EPQ etc
- Work experience?
- Entry Test?



Personal statements - comments from Admissions Tutors

- 'Highly important'
- 'It's the only way to tell those that are interested in the subject from those that are just good at it'
- 'Forms the basis for the interview'
- 'Especially important in borderline cases'
- 'Important at confirmation/clearing'
- 'I look for students who will be interesting to teach'



Personal statement

- Reasons for course/subject choice
- What you enjoy in any related subjects now
- Current affairs/ reading around the subject/ MOOCs/ TED
- Career goals/ what hope to gain
- Interests/ hobbies
- School experience – positions of responsibility
- Involvement in Higher Education activities
- Work experience/ employment
- Skills/personal qualities relevant to the course
- Gap year information, if applicable
- Motivation – Commitment - Enthusiasm



Key skills to do well - Medicine



- Sound academic background
- Physical stamina
- Manual dexterity
- Desire to help people
- Able to work under pressure
- Time management
- Methodical
- Interest in science
- Communication skills
- Study skills
- Team working
- Self-motivation

You may need a skeleton

COSTS AN ARM AND A LEG



Key skills to do well - Law

- Enjoy reading and reflecting
- Curiosity about law
- Correct use of words
- Enthusiasm for discussion
- Able to extract/manipulate information
- Able to critically analyse written material
- Able to find solutions to dilemmas
- Research and writing skills
- Enjoy listening, arguing, debating, negotiating
- Able to present ideas
- Logical approach to factual situations
- Appreciation of ethical & moral dimensions
- Ability to think under pressure
- Awareness of the political scene
- Self motivation and time management
- Intellectual curiosity



PERSONAL STATEMENT

'I really want to be an Accountant. Please give me a place on your Accounting and Finance degree. My friends think I'll be good.'

'I enjoy the theatre and used to go a couple of times a year.' (Drama)

'My interest in Law stems from my enjoyment of 'The Split' and other related TV series.'

'To be or not to be, that is the question'. It was this quote from Shakespeare's Macbeth that persuaded me to study English.'

PERSONAL STATEMENT

ing and understanding the true stories behind historical figures
figued me. I have been following the recent discovery of R
d by the resulting reinterpretation of his j
e Roses period and the wider implicat
nry VII and Henry VIII. I have a deep
nd Romans, whose mythology
enaissance to the later pe
The Lady in the Tower
motives behind her
be orchestrated by he



PERSONAL STATEMENT

Ancient history, for me, is about connecting with distant generations from all walks of life. It is an interest that goes beyond the great historical set pieces. I love the human side of the subject, from the baker producing his last loaf in Pompeii to the third century Roman complaining about the theft of his bath robe on a curse tablet. I am intrigued by the minutiae of ancient life and mythology, how societies developed and how attitudes changed. We can learn so much by exploring historical contexts, and recognising their relevance to the present.

In my Extended Project Qualification which looks at the role of women in Ancient Rome, I have increased my understanding of how women both broke convention and conformed to achieve power. Through this I have honed research skills such as prioritising information, recognising bias in articles and assessing the value of historical sources - all of which I look forward to applying at university. The project has acquainted me with many books by noted historians, including Guy De La Bedoyere's *Domina* - an especially inspirational study because of its perspective on gender roles in Ancient Rome.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

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figued me. I have been following the recent discovery of Roman
d by the resulting reinterpretation of his life and reign
e Roses period and the wider implications of the reign of
nry VII and Henry VIII. I have a deep interest in the
nd Romans, whose mythology and legends have been
enaissance to the later period of the Renaissance.
The Lady in the Tower and the motives behind her
be orchestrated by her fall in 1536.



PERSONAL STATEMENT

'If I should be accepted to your university I would wish to pursue my chosen field of study, psychology, for one very basic reason: I want to Rule the World. I'm not talking your run of the mill big company, or being Prime Minister, no I'm talking about Julius Caesar, Napoleon Bonaparte, King Tutankhamen type of Ruling the World except, succeeding where they failed, because quite simply they lacked the basic understanding of human psychology.'

PERSONAL STATEMENT

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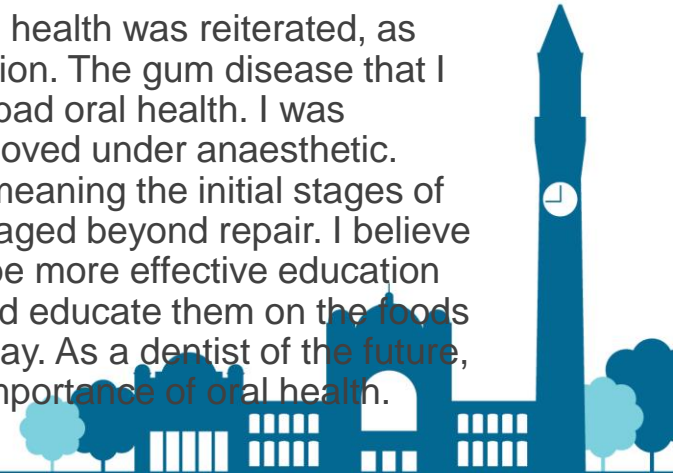
Personal statement

My interest in Dentistry began when I was referred to an orthodontist to straighten my overlapping front teeth. I found the difference a dentist can make to a smile and the confidence they can help build in a person extraordinary, and have aspirations to pursue a career where I will impact others in the same way.

In the past 12 months, I have undertaken three work experience opportunities at dental practices, all of which serve a different demographic of patients. I have gained an understanding of the importance of the relationship and trust which exists between dentist and patient and the requirement for patient confidentiality, whilst learning some of the necessary communication skills required of a dentist, particularly when dealing with anxious or vulnerable patients such as the elderly.

I was also able to recognise the teamwork and communication needed between dentist and dental nurse in order to complete the procedures quickly but carefully; skills I have developed as a committed member of a local cheerleading team where in my role as a back spot I am responsible for the flyer's safety. As part of the team, I assist in the coaching of the 8-12 year olds twice a week, allowing me to build my leadership and teamwork skills.

While observing a dental hygienist, the importance of gums in overall oral health was reiterated, as failure to properly clean around the gum line may result in gingival recession. The gum disease that I saw during my work experience led me to research more about cases of bad oral health. I was shocked to discover the alarming rising rates of children having teeth removed under anaesthetic. Only 58.5% of the UK's child population in 2018 were seen by a dentist, meaning the initial stages of tooth decay were not identified and treated before the tooth became damaged beyond repair. I believe that to reduce the number of children requiring extractions, there should be more effective education schemes to teach children in schools how to properly brush their teeth and educate them on the foods and drinks with high sugar content that are mostly responsible for the decay. As a dentist of the future, I hope to contribute to the education of children and their parents in the importance of oral health.



Advice from Admissions Tutors video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLokG6bhPCw&t=3s>



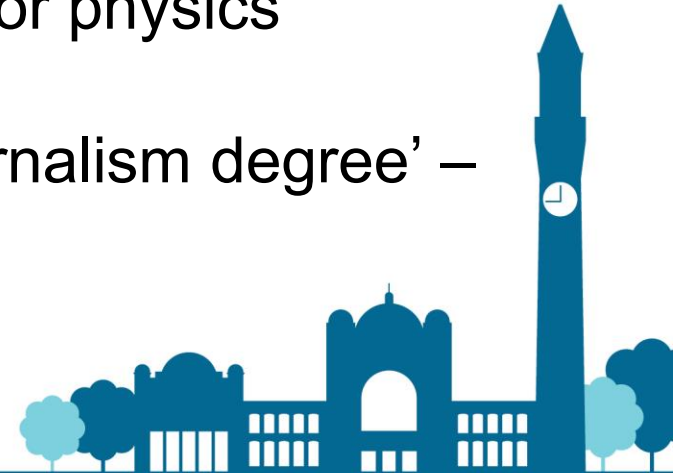
Personal statement examples

‘I have always wanted to either be a doctor or a primary school teacher.’ – Applied for Medicine



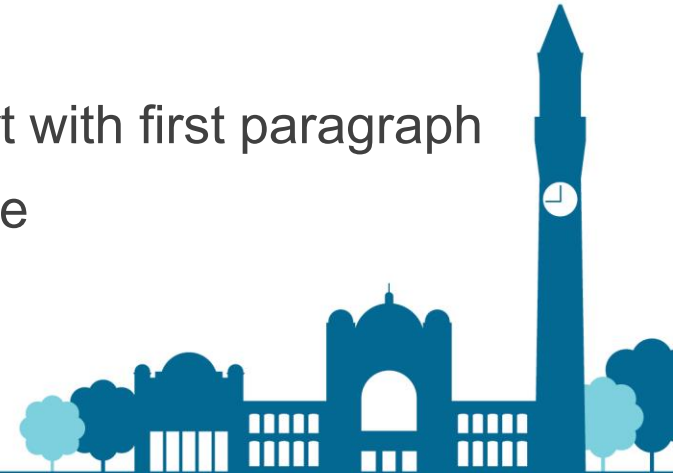
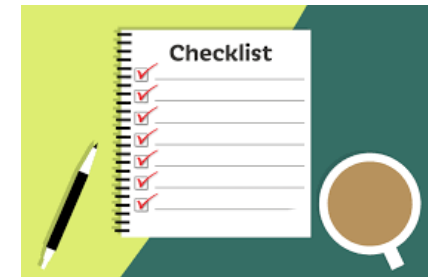
‘I have always wanted to study history or physics’

‘I have always wanted to pursue a Journalism degree’ –
Birmingham does not do Journalism!



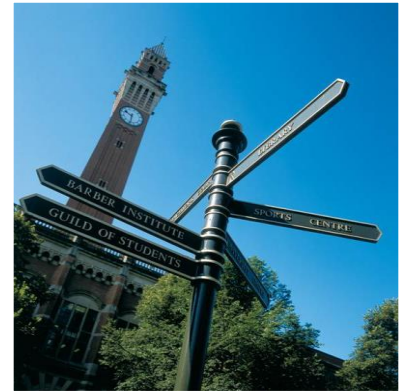
Making a good impression with your personal statement

- At least 75% should concentrate on course/subject related issues
- Grammar/spelling/vocabulary
- Be specific
- Be honest
- Be positive
- Be selective
- Take time – edits required, don't have to start with first paragraph
- Don't plagiarise – Similarity Detection Service
- Don't start every sentence with 'I'
- No lists – analyse your experiences



Top tips

- Do your research - get it right
- Visit
- Work hard
- Demonstrate your enthusiasm for the subject
- Identify and evidence your skills/qualities
- Be organised and plan ahead





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