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Personal Statements

- Make sure your personal statement really shows your passion
- Show rather than tell! Make sure to include those supra-curriculars in there
- Reflection is key! What did the activity make you realise/teach you?
- Always give specific examples rather than mention statements vaguely - don't tell assesors what they already know!
- Change up your sentence structure so it's more interesting to read
- Add points which you think will add most value to the statement - choose a few important ones
- Make sure it's authentic 🙂
- It's best to get your statement looked at by a few trusted members

QUESTION 1

"Why do you want to study this course/subject?"

1

Discuss your motivations for studying this course(s) – Have you been inspired by a key moment in your life? Maybe it's a subject you love and want to pursue further. Everyone would have been inspired by different circumstances and it's important to discuss what led you to this interest in a particular subject.

Consider your knowledge of this subject area and interests – Perhaps you have read a book about your interest or spoken to a subject expert doing great things that have sparked your interest? Universities and colleges want to see you have done your research so they can be confident this is something you will enjoy and excel in!

2

3

Your future plans and why this is a good fit for you – If you already have a particular profession in mind, discuss how your chosen course will help you get there. If you are still unsure, think about what is important to you and what skills you may want to gain to aid in future employment opportunities.



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QUESTION 2

“How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?”

<u>How do your studies or training relate to your chosen course(s) or subject area?</u>
This could be current or previous studies within a school or college, or even a short online course – any form of formal education. Try to focus on what’s most recent and relevant to your chosen course(s), i.e.: A-level biology, First Aid courses, etc.

<u>What relevant or transferable skills do you have that make you a great candidate?</u>
Maybe you have studied a particular topic in your post-16 education that helped you understand where your interests and strengths lie?

<u>Any relevant educational achievements</u>
Universities and colleges will see your grades elsewhere on your application, so you don’t need to talk about these. Consider accomplishments like competitions, music, sports, school prefect, or maybe you landed the lead role in a play?



QUESTION 3

“What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?”

Your participation in RO

As an RO student, you will have completed the ASM, attended events, and done Skills4Uni. All of these elements will give you lots to talk about in this section, and show that you are serious about your future in Higher Education.

Work experience, employment, or volunteering

Maybe you have done some work experience at a law firm, or a hospital are learnt about the important of teamwork? Or have you volunteered at your local charity shop and gained vital communication skills? Whether it’s in-person work experience or virtual, the key thing here is for you to reflect on your experiences and the skills gained relevant to your chosen course.

Hobbies and any extracurricular or outreach activities

Think sports, reading, community work, summer schools – any activities outside of your studies that help further showcase why you’d make a great student. Include achievements outside of school or college, i.e.: captain for a local club, a music achievement, a sports competition you’ve won or a qualification you have gained outside school.

Personal life experiences or responsibilities

Is there a situation you’ve personally overcome that has influenced your decision? Are there responsibilities such as caring for a family member that has helped you develop essential qualities for the course like resilience and empathy?

