



Writing a Personal Statement

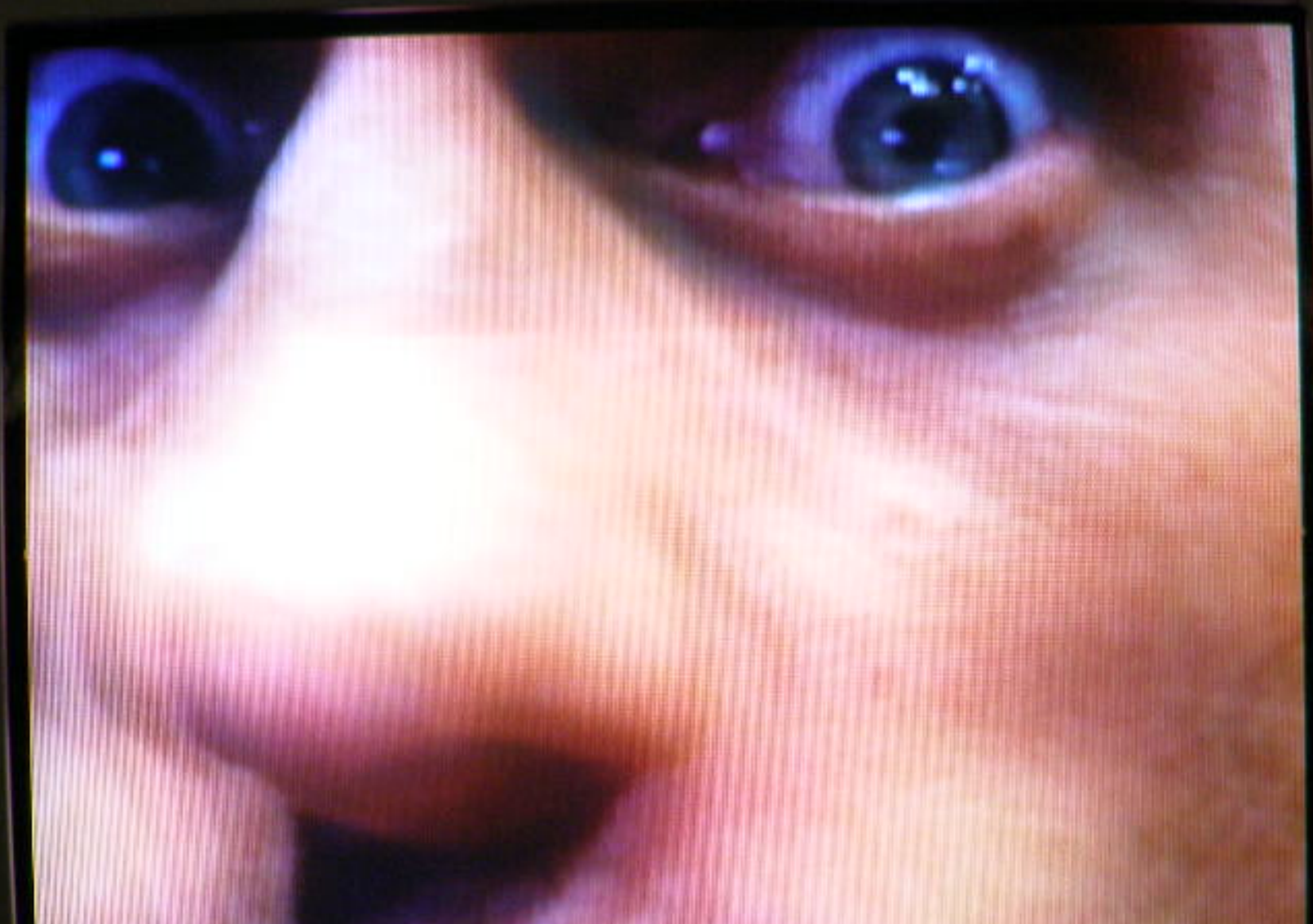
Content of Presentation

- What is the Personal Statement?
- Why is the Personal Statement important?
- What are admissions tutors looking for?
- Structure: the essential 1,2,3
- Advice & help from UCAS /online
- The Interview / Portfolio

What is the Personal Statement?

- Part of your UCAS application form
- Maximum length is 4,000 characters or 47 lines
- This one personal statement will go to all of your university choices

Why is the Personal Statement Important?



It allows admissions tutors to discover more about
YOU as an INDIVIDUAL



Important Considerations...

- It's your one chance to market yourself effectively
- It's your one chance to give clear reasons for your course of study
- It's your one chance to convince the admissions tutors why they should select you ahead of other applicants

What are admissions tutors looking for?

- Students who are committed to the course/s they are applying for
- Maturity, skills & experience – students who can cope with university life (both academic and social)
- Interesting students with enquiring minds
- Clearly structured and correctly written statements,
WITH REAL EXAMPLES/EVIDENCE

TELL
YOUR
STORY

THE ESSENTIALS:

Clearly structured and correctly written statements

- No more than 4,000 characters (about 47 lines; approx 2 pages). Aim for 4-5 paragraphs: STRUCTURE!
- UCAS strips out all special formatting such as bold, indents, tabs, multiple spaces with the single exception of blank lines. Use blank lines inbetween paras to make it easy to read.
- Keep sentences short and succinct; BUT don't feel that you have to use elaborate language
- Proofread your statement carefully and ask others to check it for you too. SPaG matters!

Structure: 1,2, 3

- A successful personal statement should have a logical structure, presented as a piece of formal written English.
- Personal statements with a clearly defined structure are not only more understandable and compelling but also easier to write.
- **1st** Explain why you are making the application
2nd Highlight your academic experience, knowledge and abilities
3rd Summarize your extracurricular interests and skills

1st Why I am making the application.

(30-50%)

- The first section should explain why you are applying to study your subject to degree level. It is conventionally placed at the beginning and should make up the major portion of the statement.
- It should convey an informed enthusiasm with evidence that you have thought deeply about your choices based upon a process of thorough research. A long standing interest in the subject and wide reading beyond that required by your studies should be manifest.

- You should read course prospectus', books, attend open days, speak to graduate students, visit university department websites and other on-line resources e.g. **UniStats** to get an idea of what to expect of undergraduate study. DON'T name an individual university! Your PS may go to all 5 of your choices.
- You might refer to how personal experiences in your life, courses you have attended, the content of your character and your academic talents make you a suitable candidate
- Mention your career goals, particularly if relevant to the subject you are applying

2nd Academic experience, knowledge and abilities (25-35%)

- Here you should indicate which areas of your AS and A2 (or equivalent) subjects you find especially interesting. Give special emphasis to those areas of your present studies that are particularly relevant to your application.
- Provide evidence of wider reading and experience beyond that you have been obliged to do.
- Describe any work placements within your field of interest. This demonstrates real commitment and initiative.

3rd Extracurricular interests and achievements (20-30%)

- The final few paragraphs should focus upon your activities beyond academic study.
- Here you can indicate valued skills and qualities you have to offer, e.g. time management, organisation, initiative, leadership, commerce, oral and written communication, team working etc.

Advice & help from UCAS



How should I start it?

What are unis looking for?

How should I structure
my personal statement?



Advice & help from UCAS

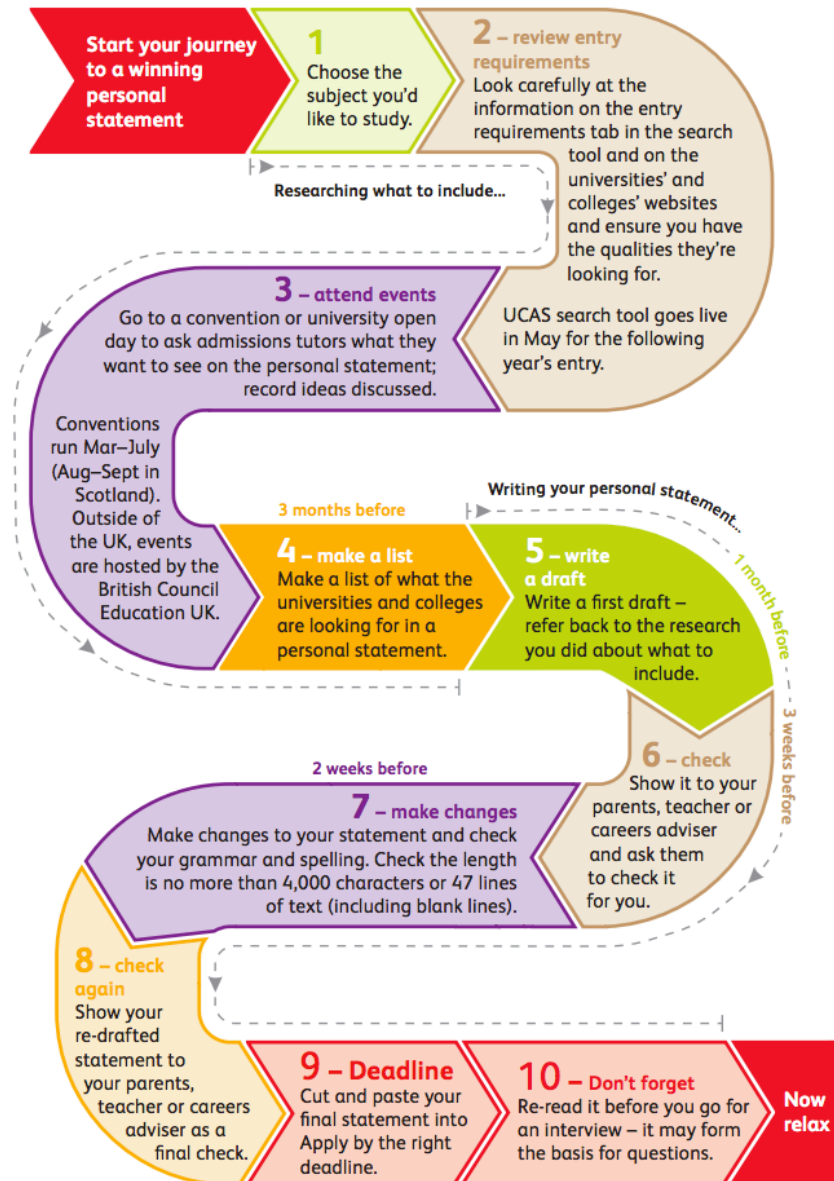
TIMELINE

- <https://www.ucas.com/sites/default/files/ucas-personal-statement-timeline.pdf>

WORKSHEET / TEMPLATE

- <https://www.ucas.com/sites/default/files/ucas-personal-statement-worksheet.pdf>

My personal statement timeline



Check deadlines and dates!

06
SEP

06 September 2016

Completed applications can be submitted to universities and colleges.

15
OCT

Deadline for applications to Oxford, Cambridge, and most courses in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine/science -

15 October 2016

Applications for the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and for most courses in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine/science, should arrive at UCAS by 18:00 (UK time). Check deadline details in our search tool. The reference must be completed before the application can be sent to us.

15
JAN

Deadline for the majority of undergraduate courses -

15 January 2017

Applications for the majority of undergraduate courses should arrive at UCAS by 18:00 (UK time) today (check course details in our search tool for the correct deadline). The reference must be completed before your application can be sent to us.

25

Extra opens -

Personal statement worksheet

This worksheet is designed to help you think about information you could include in your personal statement. We've included space for you to write down any thoughts you have as you go along. More detailed advice and guidance about writing your personal statement, including our UCAStv video guide, is available at www.ucas.com/personalstatement.

Writing about the course

Why are you applying for your chosen course(s)?

Why does this subject interest you? Include evidence that you understand what's required to study the course, e.g. if applying for psychology courses, show that you know how scientific the subject is.

Advice & help from UCAS

GENERAL ADVICE

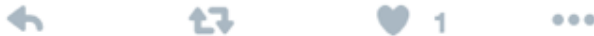
- <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/when-apply/writing-personal-statement>
- <https://www.ucas.com/connect/blogs/personal-statements-quick-fire-questions-answered>
- <https://www.ucas.com/connect/blogs/ten-places-get-personal-statement-pointers>

SEARCH #ucasps



DMU Enquiry Team @dmuenquiry · 1 Nov 2015

Applying for Nursing? Need a hand with your personal statement? Drop us an email: studentadviser@dmu.ac.uk #UCAS #ucasps #Nursing #highered



 Saturday Club and 11 others follow



USW @UniSouthWales · 31 Oct 2015

A complete guide to writing your personal statement socsi.in/gSMLt #UCASPS



POSTED BY

- Anyone
- You
- Your Friends
- Your Friends and Groups
- ... Choose a source...

TAGGED LOCATION

- Anywhere
- Helston, United Kingdom
- ... Choose a location...

DATE POSTED

- Any time
- 2016
- 2015
- 2014
- ... Choose a date...

All the inspiration you need to complete your personal statement is in one place – our website! <http://ow.ly/NOtYm>

Wondering
where to start
with your
personal
statement?

UCAS



Jan Dinsdale

1 mutual friend

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Personal statement top tips...

- 1: use evidence** – show you'd be a great student by linking experience from your studies and other activities to the course.
- 2: be honest** – don't be tempted to exaggerate. Admissions tutors often refer to personal statements during interviews.
- 3: start early** – you'll probably redraft it several times before you're happy with it, so allow yourself plenty of time.
- 4: let friends and family read it** – they may have suggestions you haven't considered and can tell you whether it makes sense.
- 5: proofread it several times** – reading it out loud will help you to spot bad punctuation and messy wording.

There's more advice on personal statements at www.ucas.com/personalstatement.



The Interview / Portfolio

- Some universities will invite you for an interview as part of the selection process
- Some courses will ask for an online or physical portfolio of work
- Remember, anything you say in your personal statement is likely to be brought up at the interview, so keep a copy to re-read beforehand



good luck
is the
result of
good
planning