

TheUniGuide

Personal Statement FAQ

At this time of year, Year 13 students are busily writing their UCAS personal statements.

The Uni Guide have answered the most commonly asked personal statement questions.

How long can the personal statement be?

Statements are limited to either:

- 4000 characters (including spaces) OR,
- 47 lines of 95 characters (inc spaces) per line,

Where do I start?

Most people won't be able to just start writing the statement off the top of their head – so it's a good idea to jot down a few notes first. The main things to think about are:

- What do I want to study? (if you can't answer this, you should probably concentrate on working this out, before writing your personal statement).
- Why do I want to study it?
- What personal qualities, interests and experience do I have which show I am suited to this subject, and to study at university.

What sort of structure should I use?

Most people write their personal statement in an essay style, starting off with the course, and why they want to do it, then talking about their relevant work experience and skills and finishing off with extra-curricular activities – though you can use any style which fits you.

As a guide, spend around two thirds of the space talking about your course and how you're suited to it and one third on your work experience and other activities. Exactly how you write your statement depends on your subject - generally people write more about work experience for vocational subjects like medicine and law than they would for subjects like maths or English where work experience is less important.

What's the most important part?

Write about your aspirations in a meaningful way. The crucial bit about a personal statement is where you talk about the subject you are applying for and why you want to do this at uni. Admissions tutors will always focus on this bit - so make this interesting and not just a book-list. Your personality should emerge within this - they should get a feeling of what is driving you to apply for this course, and your sense of energy and enthusiasm.

Should I talk about what I want to do after university?

You could, but only if you have a good idea of what you want to do. If you sound sure about what you want to do after uni it gives the impression that you've thought carefully about your course and what you want to do with it. It's also a nice way to round off your statement, rather than finishing on less important stuff like extra-curricular activities. If you don't have any future plans, then leave them out – you don't want to be asked about them at interviews.

Should I talk about my qualifications?

No. There's already a section on the UCAS form for this, so don't waste the space on your personal statement. If you have something important which doesn't go in the qualifications section, ask your referee to put it down in your reference – it will sound better if it comes from them than from you. This goes for module marks as well. Some people are (wrongly) told that they should try and link each A level subject to the course they are applying for. Don't do this, instead talk about the subject you are applying for - that is what matters.

What are admissions tutors looking for?

Different admissions tutors are looking for different things, but in general they will be thinking things like: *"Do we want this student on this course?"*, and *"Do we want this student at this university?"* And most will be looking for an interest in the subject you are applying for that goes beyond simply your A level syllabus/reading list.

Tricks to squeeze more in

- Remember it's a personal statement, cut out anything unnecessary!
- Don't repeat yourself
- Cut out the waffle - be concise!
- Get rid of pointless words e.g. the name of the hospital/doctor you worked with, exact dates (just put X months), pointless adjectives etc.
- Ask your referee to mention some stuff that you cannot
- Get some structure to your statement
- At the end of the day if you can't get it under the lines/characters you may just have to chop whole sentences



<https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/personal-statements/personal-statement-faqs>



careerdays.co.uk

Law Work Experience and Career Days

Saturday, October 31st 2020 – Online

Choosing to study law at university can seem a daunting task when you scratch the surface and see all of the options and different careers available to you. Their 1 day career and work experience day for law is designed to give students the best possible chance of a successful application through learning from the experts what is required to get a place to study law at university as well as providing some relevant work experience to use in applications.

Their law careers day is run by current lawyers and law students. In the first part of the day, they'll go through exactly what you need to do to apply to law school. Beginning with what subjects you should take at GCSE/A-level and the grades required, they'll map out your route to law school.

They start the day by going through personal statements. This is your 47 lines to impress your desire to study law, and is of vital importance if you are looking to secure a place in university for this very competitive degree course.

Their tutors have seen it all when it comes to personal statements for law and through showing you both good and bad examples, you'll get a good handle on what a successful applicant looks like.

The next part of the morning is concerned with choosing the right degree course and university. With such a range of options, they'll guide you through them so at the very least you can have a shortlist and understand the differences between each law school, the courses offered and the entry requirements for each one.

They'll then cover the LNAT examination that several universities require students to sit. As there's no official subject requirements for law, the LNAT is designed and used by several universities to test an applicants comprehension skills, analysis, and deduction abilities.

The second part of the day is practical based where lawyers will take you through some of their day-to-day work. Focusing on the career of a barrister, they'll stage a mock trial aimed at teaching students the essentials of any career in law, namely teamwork, interpretation skills, critical thinking and public speaking.

The whole careers day is designed and tailored for students aged 14-17 who are considering law as a

career choice and they'll make sure you leave the day fully prepared for your future career with a clear plan of what it's going to take, to give you the very best chance of success and to secure that spot in law school.

All courses begin at 11am and finish at 4pm & are available to watch for 30 days after if you cannot make it on the day. All courses are £59 for the full day. A personalised certificate will be sent to you within 2 weeks of completing this course.

<https://www.careerdays.co.uk/medicine-careers-day>



Global Higher Education: student webinars

Are you interested in applying to university abroad?

If the answer is yes, don't miss these online sessions with top universities from around the world! These international universities will give you an introduction to each region and their different university systems. You'll learn about the programmes on offer, fees, accommodation, admissions processes, and what it's really like to be a student there. You'll also have the opportunity to ask questions.

University in the United States Monday 12 October, 5pm SIGN UP	Including: University of Wyoming, Boston University, University of California (San Diego)	University in Canada Tuesday 13 October, 5pm SIGN UP	Including: University of British Columbia, University of Toronto, Bishop's University, OCAD University
University in the Netherlands Wednesday 14 October, 5pm SIGN UP	Including: Leiden University, University College Utrecht, Tilburg University, University College Roosevelt	University in Ireland Thursday 15 October, 5pm SIGN UP	Including: Trinity College Dublin + two more world class Irish institutions

University in the rest of Europe #1 Monday 19 October, 5pm SIGN UP	Including: Jacobs University Bremen (Germany), Bocconi University (Italy), Ecole Hôtelière Lausanne (Switzerland)	University in Australia Tuesday 20 October, 5pm SIGN UP	Including: Study Options (the official application support service for UK students) + three top Australian universities
University in the rest of Europe #2 Wednesday 21 October, 5pm SIGN UP	Including: Saint Louis University Madrid (Spain) + two more world class European institutions.	What is a webinar? Unifrog webinars are online presentations that take place on Zoom. When you join, your camera and microphone will be turned off.	

University in the USA webinar registration [here](#)
University in Canada webinar registration [here](#)
University in the Netherlands webinar registration [here](#)
University in Ireland webinar registration [here](#)



University in Australia webinar registration [here](#)
University in Europe 1 webinar registration [here](#)
University in Europe 2 webinar registration [here](#)



Medical Projects Work Experience Opportunity

Think you have what it takes to be a Doctor? Well, now you can actually become the GP. You will take actual patient histories, form diagnoses, order tests & scans and suggest treatment plans.

Medical Projects ground-breaking GP Live gives students the opportunity to host their own GP surgery, under the guidance of their Mentors. They have a bank of real medical cases and students will have patients to take patient histories from, and then discuss the assessment with other students and the Doctor.

Unlike other courses that use pre-recorded videos, this course is LIVE and interactive. Students will talk directly to patients and have the full support of the group and their mentors to work through each case. After each case, there is a full breakdown of the medical side as well as looking at communication and the role of a Doctor. Real experience, real medical cases and real insight. Better than shadowing a GP – You are the GP!

- Real-world medical experience
- Better than traditional shadowing placements
- All online - Can be completed at home
- Amazing for personal statements and interviews
- Receive a certificate of completion for your portfolio

For further information and course dates, visit the website:

<https://educationprojects.co.uk/medical-projects/gp-live/>

University of Hertfordshire UH

Herts Virtual Open Day

Get to know Herts a little bit better, explore their campuses, and find out more about their courses and facilities. Book your place below!

Date: Saturday 10 October
Time: 10:00 - 13:00

Get involved with information talks and live Q&A's

Take a virtual tour and explore our facilities
Visit our dedicated subject areas

Click [here](#) to book a **place**

INVESTMENT2020

YOUR FUTURE IN FINANCE

Instagram Q&A with Investment20/20 Trainees and Apprentices

On Wednesday 7 October between 10am – 12pm sixth form students can join Investment2020 for the Instagram Q&A to hear from their trainees and apprentices. This is a unique opportunity for students to post their own questions to Investment20/20 trainees and to hear about their career journeys – and get some tips and advice on progression after sixth form or university. Students can submit questions in advance as well as during the session.

To submit questions in advance, please email your question to: eloise.lyons@investment2020.org.uk

Click [here](#) for further details



Why study English Language?

In this talk, they outline why studying English Language at university is such a good idea. They'll explain some of the areas you'll focus on, give some examples of the kind of work you might do and outline how the English department at Aston is well-placed to support your studies. They'll end by outlining why studying English as part of a broader set of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences subjects offers excellent opportunities for employment and beyond.

If you are interested in listening to this webinar please let me know and I'll arrange for the recording to be sent to you.

<https://www.unitasterdays.com/events/event/60688/why-study-english-language-video-talk>



Apprenticeships

Joining the Army as an Officer is your chance to start a career with a clear path for progression. If university isn't right for you, a career as an Officer gives you access to extensive training and development opportunities, you can even get a degree with Army funding. If you do want to go to university, then the Army offers a range of bursaries to support your studies, find out more [here](#).

Either way, as an Army Officer, you'll succeed alongside your team, growing and unlocking your potential as you overcome challenges together, you'll also receive:

- A starting salary of around £33,000 upon completion of one year's training
- Subsidised accommodation and facilities, increasing your disposable income
- Free medical and dental health cover
- Opportunities to continually progress your career
- Sponsorship to achieve valuable professional qualifications
- Adventurous Training, and the chance to play your favourite sports



The poster features a smiling soldier in camouflage uniform. The main headline reads 'GAIN SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS WITH THE ARMY' and 'QUALIFY WITH AN APPRENTICESHIP'. A circular badge states 'EARN OVER £10,000 PER YEAR ON YOUR APPRENTICESHIP'. Another circular badge says 'NO MATTER WHAT AGE YOU ARE UPON JOINING THE ARMY, YOU'LL GET THE SAME'. The text below explains that there are opportunities for development and learning for everyone in the Army, regardless of previous qualifications. It highlights that apprentices are employed by the Army as well as their employer, receiving training and support from both. The poster also mentions that apprentices can earn up to £10,000 per year and can progress to become a professional. At the bottom, there are three small images showing apprentices working in different roles: one in a classroom, one in a workshop, and one in a field setting.

Becoming an Army Officer is the start of a journey, where you'll grow and make the most of every opportunity, where you'll travel the world doing something that matters. If you're looking for a career with adventure, purpose, pride, and confidence, you'll find it as an Army Officer.

For further information click [here](#)

If you have any questions or queries relating to careers please contact the careers leader Kate Ward on wardk@haileyburyturnford.com