



Higher education

**Y12 Personal
Statement Day 2025**

Personal Statement Day 2025



9am	Registration (Canteen Atrium)				
9.15am	UCAS Process (Canteen Atrium) Personal Statement Overview & Preparation Unifrog				
10.50 – 11.10am	Break Time				
11.15 – 1pm	Group 1: Medicine Personal Statement Workshop *SCO (Canteen Atrium) *JWT/KSH	Group 2: Dentistry/Vet Med/Allied Healthcare Personal Statement Workshop *SCO (Canteen Atrium) *KBI/MNI	Group 3: Personal Statement Workshop *City St Georges University (Gym) *SLE/SBN/Karyn	Group 4: Personal Statement Workshop *Nottingham (Silent Study) *STR/WWS	Group 5: Personal Statement Workshop *Bath (G31) *JSR/RRC
1pm – 1.40pm	Lunch				
1.40 – 2.30pm	Group 1: Personal Statement Writing (Refectory/G21) JWT/KSH	Group 2: Personal Statement Writing (T02) KBI/MNI	Group 3: Personal Statement Writing (E27/E26) SLE/SBN/Karyn	Group 4: Personal Statement Writing (Silent Study/C01) STR/WWS	Group 5: Personal Statement Writing (G22/G23) JSR/RRC



Aim of the Day...



- Allow you to have dedicated thinking time about your future
 - UCAS Application & Process (Applying to University)
 - Personal statement overview and preparation (3 Questions)
 - Reflect on your achievements and experiences in relation to your chosen career/course
 - Utilise UniFrog to support building your Personal Statement
-

Future



Draw yourself in 5 years time...
Draw yourself in 15 years time...

5 Years

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin purple border, intended for a drawing of the student in 5 years.

15 Years

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin purple border, intended for a drawing of the student in 15 years.

My Future

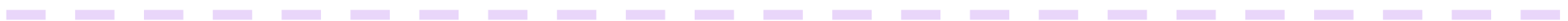


My Future Career...

In pairs, you are going to talk for 3mins each about the career you are hoping to pursue:

- What is the career?
- Why have you chosen this career?
- How do you know this is right for you?

(If you do not have a set career, maybe state this but talk about subjects you love, things you have a passion for)



Is University For Me?



- With your partner reflect on the things we spoke about in our recent PSHCE sessions regarding Pro's and Con's of university...
 - Will Uni help you get the career you want? Are there alternative routes?
 - Feelings about student loan/debt? Graduates are more likely to secure top jobs and are higher earners
 - Are you looking forward to studying for something you are most passionate about, with top class lecturers?
 - Are you excited to live at University and develop independence?
 - Are you looking forward to meeting new people?
 - Are you thinking about the social aspect of uni and the additional clubs and societies to develop new skills?



Is University For Me?



- Remember all of the other pathways we explored in PSHCE before easter:
 - Apprenticeships
 - Gap Year Programmes
 - Degree Apprenticeships
 - Direct into work
 - Foundation Degree
- We will be asking each of you to complete a personal statement as if you were going to university to ensure we have everything in place should you change your mind in the future. This is statutory.



Applying to University 2025-26



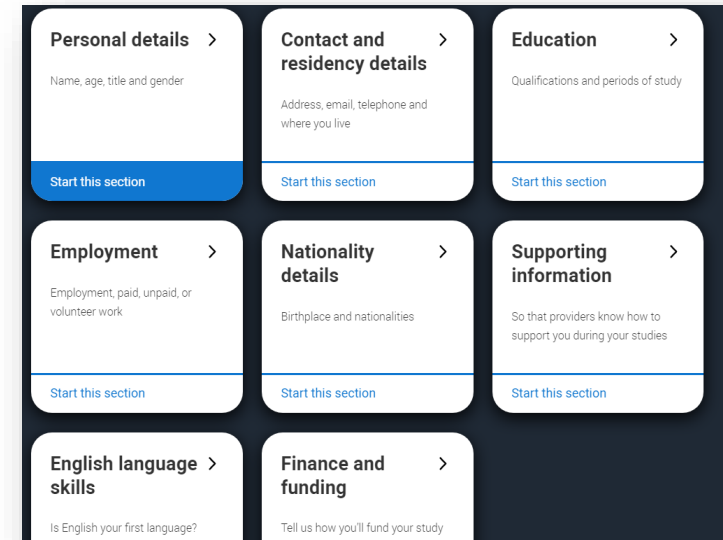
Makers of the Future Day (Higher Ed & Apprenticeships)	Wednesday 26 March
Research Courses, Uni's Apprenticeships – explore UCAS Hub, Taster lectures via UCAS	Easter Holidays
Year 12 EOY Exams	28 th April – 9 th May
Personal Statement Day	Monday 12 May
UCAS Opens for students to begin applications	Tuesday 13 th May
School Reference Statements	June/July
EOY exam grades/UCAS Grades Issued	June
Work experience week	Monday 14 July – Friday 18 July
Final Draft Personal Statement – Y13	September (1 st school day)
UCAS Early entry deadline (Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry, Vet Med)	Friday 19 th September
UCAS Final deadline for all other courses	Friday 14 th November

Applying to University - UCAS



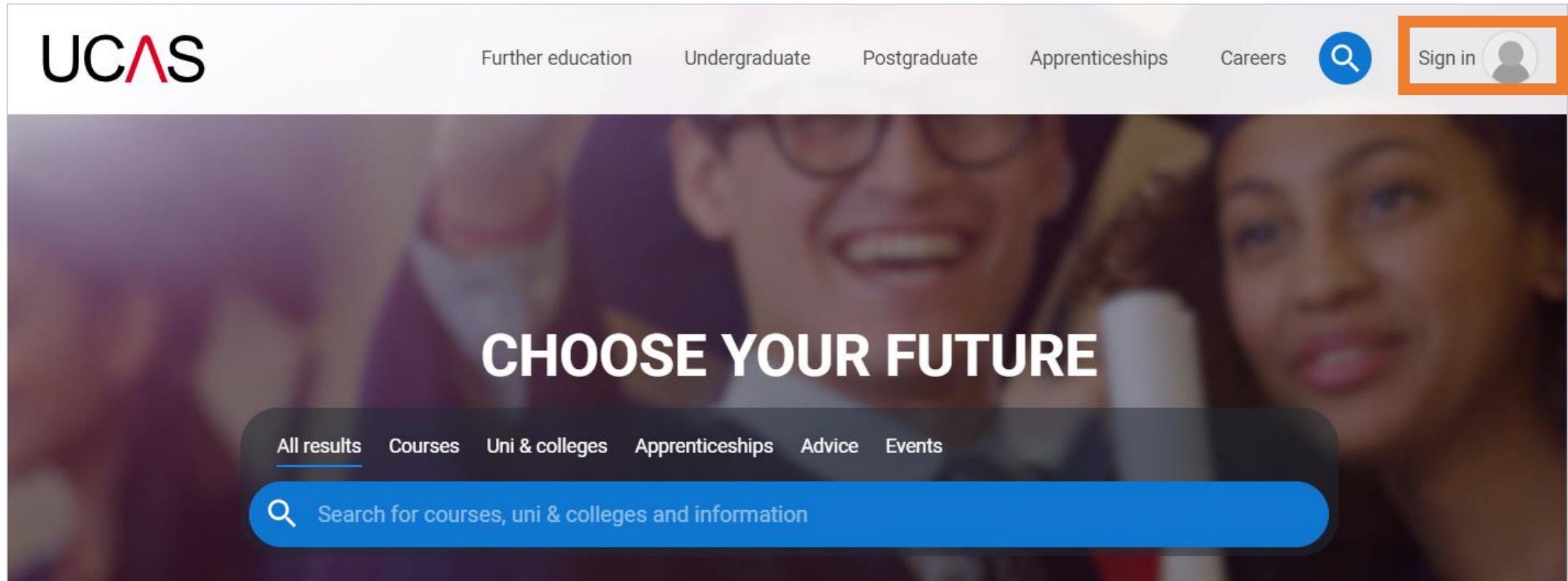
UCAS Hub

- All applications are made on-line through **UCAS** (Universities & Colleges Admissions Service)
- Register for a UCAS Hub account (May 13th 2025) using the schools buzzword **'Higher26'**
- Students complete a profile, including the following sections:
 - Personal details
 - Contact & residency details
 - Nationality details
 - Supporting information
 - English language skills
 - Finance & funding
 - Diversity & inclusion (UK applicants only)
 - More about you
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Extra activities
 - Personal statement
 - Choices



Registering for an account

Head to ucas.com and select **Sign in**.



Registering for an account

Complete the short form. Make sure the **password is memorable.**

We recommend you use a **personal email address** so you always have access to updates.

UCAS

Further education Undergraduate Postgraduate Alternatives Careers Account

Sign in **Register**

REGISTER

Email *

First name *


Last name

Password *

Confirm password *

I have read and understood the [Terms and conditions](#) *

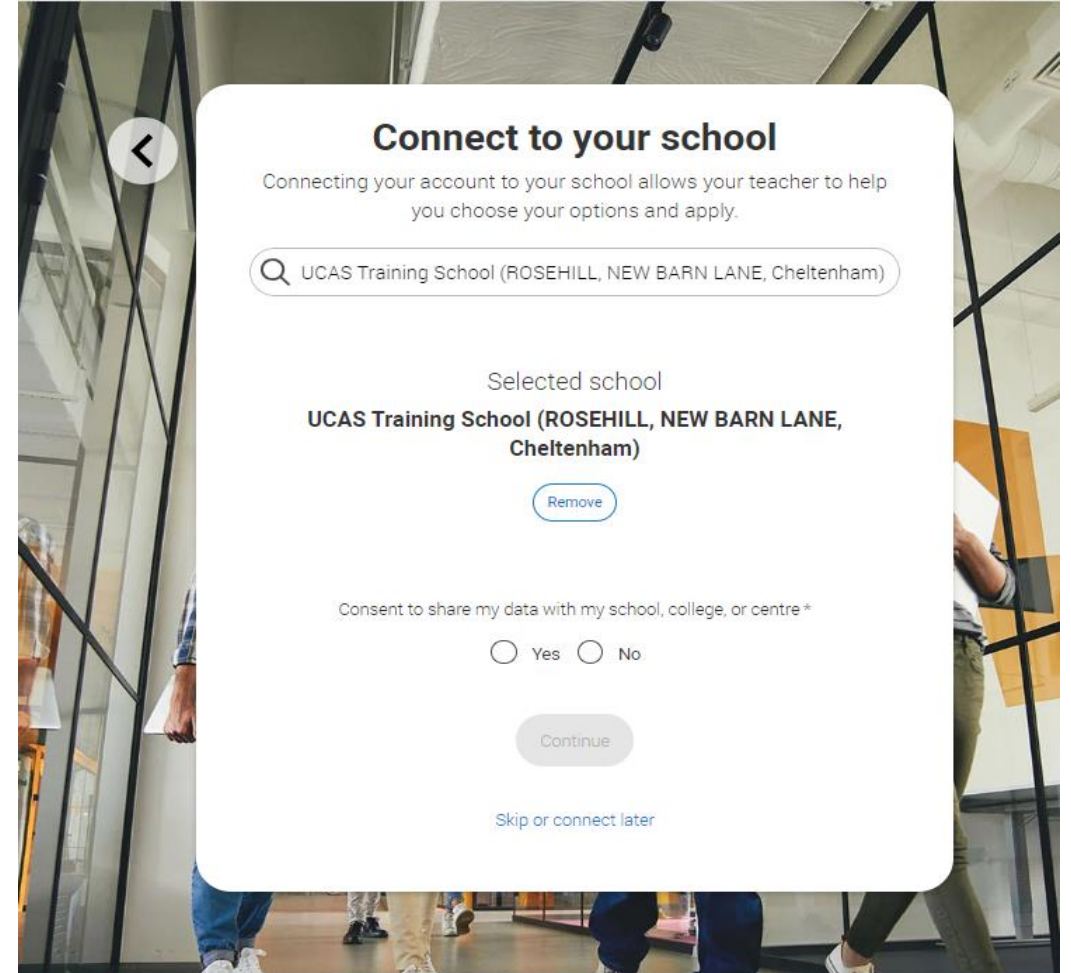
Register

 We never share your data without permission
[Our privacy and cookie policies](#)

Registering for an account

Year 12 & 13 **must link your application to WHSG**. This is so UCAS can share your UCAS Hub activity with your school, college, or centre, so they can support you.

You'll also need to **enter your school or college buzzword** when you start your application so they can support you with applying.

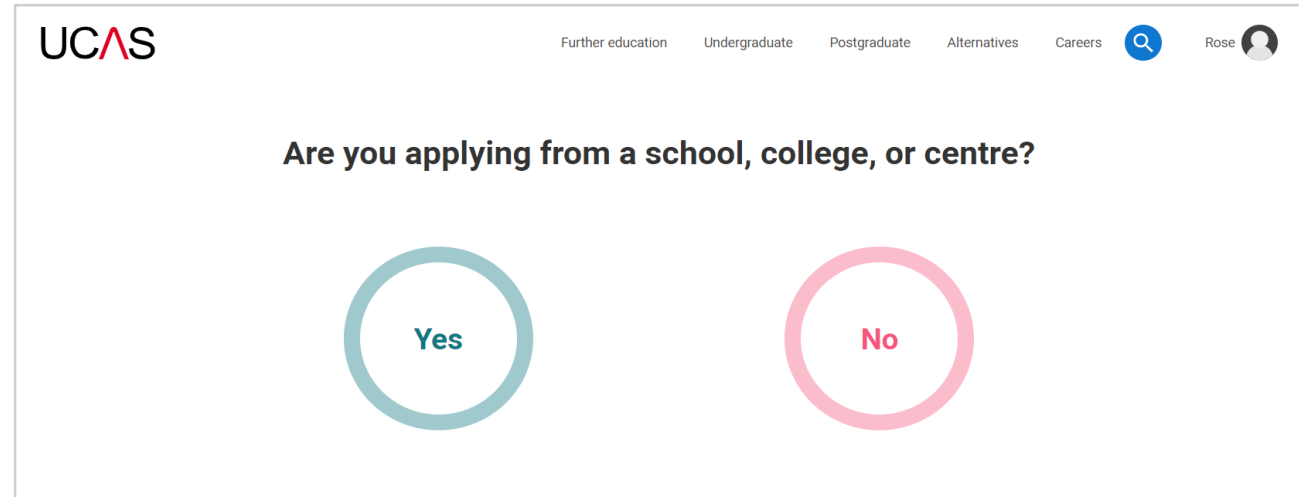


Linking to your school, college or centre

If you're applying with the help of your school, college or centre then select **'Yes'**.

You will then need to enter the **Buzzword Higher26**

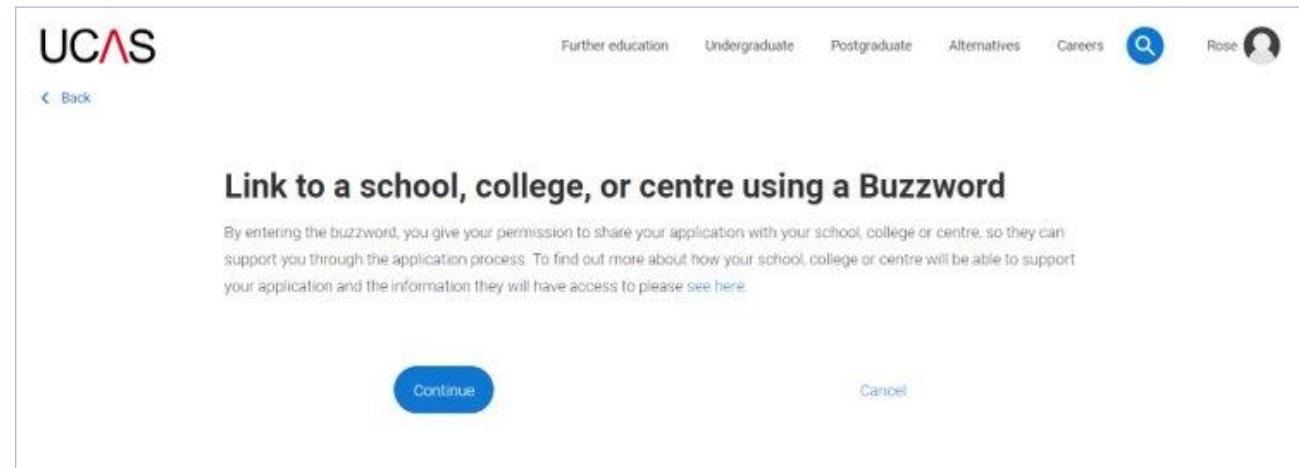
The Buzzword is given to you by your school, college or centre.



UCAS Further education Undergraduate Postgraduate Alternatives Careers Rose

Are you applying from a school, college, or centre?

Yes No



UCAS Further education Undergraduate Postgraduate Alternatives Careers Rose

< Back

Link to a school, college, or centre using a Buzzword

By entering the buzzword, you give your permission to share your application with your school, college or centre, so they can support you through the application process. To find out more about how your school, college or centre will be able to support your application and the information they will have access to please see [here](#).

Continue Cancel

Linking to your school, college or centre

Once your application has been linked, you can then select a group.

All other courses
Dentistry
Law
Medicine
Medicine Oxbridge
Oxbridge
Vet Medicine
Y14
Y14 Early Entry

You have linked your application to
UCAS Training School

Select group

I don't know

Default Group

Former students

Oxbridge

Tutor 1

Tutor 2

Tutor 3

Tutor 4

Need help? [Advisers](#) [Join our team](#)

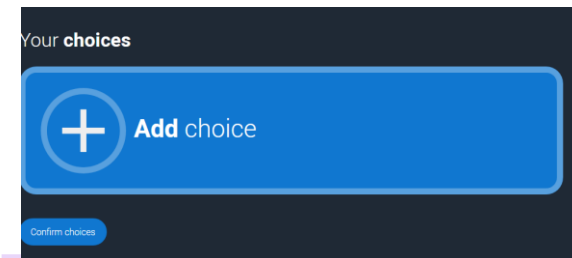
Applying to University - UCAS



Choices:

Each student can make a maximum of five choices on their application, including:

- no more than four choices in any one of medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, or veterinary science
- no more than one course at either the University of Oxford or the University of Cambridge. The exception to this is if the applicant will be a graduate at the start of the course, and they're applying for graduate medicine at the University of Cambridge. In this case, they can also apply for medicine at Cambridge, in addition to being able to apply to graduate medicine at the University of Oxford. No other combinations are permitted



Applying to University - UCAS

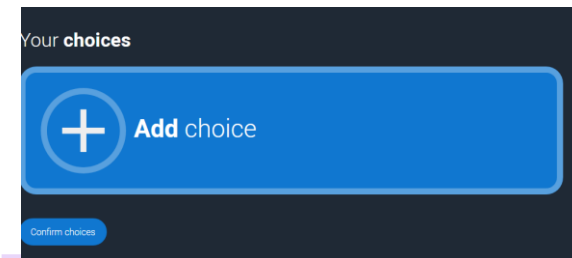


Choices:

- There is no preference order
- Your Universities will not see where else you have applied to until after you reply to any offers you get

When you start getting offers from universities you can begin to assign firm and insurance:

- You will need to select a 'firm' and 'insurance' choice:
 - Firm – first choice
 - Insurance – second choice or back up option (optional to select an insurance choice), there to fall back on if you do not meet the conditions of your firm choice (usually this will be somewhere with lower grade conditions so you have better chance of being somewhere, don't pick somewhere you wont be happy going to)



Applying to University - UCAS



WHSG UCAS Application Support Guide

- Has been emailed to you ready for today – take time to read this and have it with you when you begin your online application

For all WHSG applications please email:
whsghighered@wallingtongirls.org.uk

Applying to University - UCAS



What do University's use to make decisions on offering places:

- **UCAS Applications:**
 - School Reference
 - UCAS Predicted Grades and GCSE actual grades
 - Personal Statement
- **Interviews (In person or video):**
 - Not all courses or universities will hold interviews
- **Admissions Tests**

Applying to University - UCAS



School Reference:

- Written by the school as part of your UCAS application
- New structure for 2024 entry:
 - Section 1 – School context
 - Section 2 – Mitigating circumstances
 - Section 3 – Statements about the student directly relevant to the course applied for (not all students we have a section 3 as courses only want information about students going above and beyond in this section)
- School reference is confidential and will not be shared with you, however you can be assured schools will not and can not talk about you negatively
- It is important you keep your form tutor up to date with anything additional you are doing or any changes to your plans, as this will alter the school reference.
- Go above and beyond – I strongly recommend doing much more outside of the classroom

Personal Statement 2026 Entry



True or false? (5 mins)



Write down whether you think each statement is **true** or **false**.



1. You write a separate personal statement for each university you apply to.	2. You write a separate personal statement for each course you apply to.
3. You write a personal statement using a three-question structure.	4. You should talk about relevant work experience in your personal statement.
5. Your personal statement should explain your motivations for applying and why you'd be suitable .	6. It's ok to copy a personal statement from previous years – if it was successful once, it'll be successful again.
7. The maximum length of a personal statement is 4,000 words .	8. Most people draft six to eight versions of their personal statement before submitting.
9. You should use AI tools like ChatGPT to write your personal statement for you.	10. You shouldn't show your personal statement to anyone else.

Personal Statement 2026 Entry



Three sections with question prompts



4,000-total character count split across sections



Minimum character count 350 characters per section



Don't waste characters listing grades and subjects



Don't repeat information across sections



Personal Statement 2026 entry



- Academics from the department the student is applying for will want to see that students are informed about the course and are motivated to learn.
- Administrators will be looking for specific things or have a list of agreed criteria and aim to be fair to all candidates.
- Interviewer may ask for further detail on something that has been mentioned or challenge the student on a viewpoint they have expressed.

- Have you chosen the course for the right reasons?
- Do you have a depth of interest in the subject?
- Do you appear motivated and committed?
- Can you study independently?
- Are you genuinely engaged and knowledgeable about the area you're applying to?



Personal Statement 2026 entry



Personal Statement - Structure



1) Why do you want to study this course or subject?

- This is the opportunity for you to showcase your passion, curiosity, interest and knowledge
- A great place to highlight super-curricular activities as evidence of your curiosity and interest
- If you have an idea of a career – great! Otherwise, think about what’s important to you

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

- Show evidence of relevant or transferable skills you’ve gained from formal education and highlight how it’ll help you succeed e.g. EPQ or modules
- Think about lessons you’ve had or projects you’ve undertaken. Keep it RELEVANT
- What core set of skills have you developed that will help
- Educational achievements

3) What else have you done to prepare outside of education and why are these experiences useful?

- Think about other activities you have undertaken outside of formal education
- Maybe consider talking about work experience, work or volunteering
- Hobbies, extracurricular or outreach activities such as sports, clubs or summer schools
- Achievements outside school

Personal Statement – Question 1



1. Why do you want to study this course or subject?

You'll want to show **evidence** of passion, curiosity and interest, this might include:

Motivations for studying this course(s):

- Have you been inspired by a key role model or moment in your life?
- Is it a subject you love and want to pursue further?
- What is your drive?
- How has your path led you to this course or subject area?

Knowledge of this subject area and interests:

- Is there a particular subject area you've researched?
- Something you can't wait to learn more about?
- What about a book or subject expert doing great things that's sparked your interest?

Future plans; demonstrate why this course/subject is a good fit:

- Do you already have a particular profession in mind?
- How might you use your studies to launch your career?
- What's important to you and your future, and how might the knowledge gained from this course(s) help you achieve this?

Remember these are just some examples, you don't need to include it all. The key is to research the course(s) to find out what might be most relevant.



Personal Statement – Question 1



1. Why do you want to study this course or subject?

Examples:

- Demonstrate what's sparked your interest in finance and accounting, and show it. If you were given a copy of *The Accounting Game* or *The Joy of Accounting* and something clicked, try and get that across. Or even if you've always had a head for numbers and want to apply these skills to a business setting.
- Back up your interest in studying with evidence of your relevant skills, knowledge or experiences and show you understand something about what's involved, whether that's the financial markets, taxation, or business ethics.
- The University of Bristol is looking for 'intellectual curiosity – reading or research beyond the A level (or equivalent) syllabus'. Mention any books, channels or podcasts you follow such as **Bloomberg Surveillance** or **Money Box**, and why.

Personal Statement – Question 2



2. How have your Qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

Focus on what's most **recent** and **relevant** to your subject or course(s), examples could include:

How your studies or training relate to chosen course(s) or subject area:

- This could be your current or previous studies.
- This could be from any form of formal education – think school, college, training, or short online courses.

What relevant or transferable skills have you got that make you a great candidate:

- Are there a couple of subjects that helped you develop a core set of relevant skills required for your chosen course(s).
- Maybe a particular module or project helped you understand where your interests and strengths lie.

Any relevant educational achievements

- Universities and colleges will see your grades on your application - don't waste space talking about these.
- Focus on your other accomplishments like a competition, holding a position of responsibility or representing the school/college.



Remember these are just some examples, you don't need to include it all. The key is to research the course(s) to find out what might be most relevant.

Personal Statement – Question 2



2. How have your Qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

Examples:

- Bristol is also looking for 'interest and commitment to the subject. Can you mention relevant topics you've touched on during your A level, BTEC or Higher course, such as business policies or corporate finance?'
- University of Bath admissions tutors are expecting students to have an interest and aptitude for 'quantitative analysis of business issues'. Demonstrate this with evidence showing your abilities for applying mathematical skills to the analysis of business problems.
- Have you had to give a presentation or lead a group project, which can illustrate your presentation and communication skills?
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try **Subject Spotlights** or **Virtual Work Experiences** from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

Personal Statement – Question 3



3. What else have you done to prepare outside of education and why are these experiences useful?

Examples should be **reflective** and **demonstrate** further **suitability** for your subject or course(s), this could include:

Work experience, employment, or volunteering

- In-person or virtual work experience.
- Paid for work or volunteering.
- The key thing is reflection on the experiences and the skills gained relevant to your chosen course(s).

Personal life experiences or responsibilities

- Is there a situation you've personally overcome that has influenced your decision?
- Are there personal experiences that have helped you develop essential qualities for the course?

Hobbies and any extracurricular or outreach activities:

- Think sports, reading, community work, summer schools.
- Any activities outside of core studies that help further showcase why you'd make a great student.

Achievements outside of school or college

- This could be a position of responsibility for local clubs or groups, competitions, or qualifications you've attained outside of the classroom.

Remember these are just some examples, you don't need to include it all. The key is to research the course(s) to find out what might be most relevant.



Personal Statement – Question 3



3. What else have you done to prepare outside of education and why are these experiences useful?

Examples:

- Do you have a part-time job, or have you done work experience? It doesn't matter whether it's a couple of weeks spent shadowing an accountant, a few hours talking to one, a part-time job in a financial, retail or business environment, or a scheme like Young Enterprise. What does matter is that you write about something relevant and what you've learned from it. But, as Sheffield Hallam and LSE say on their websites, experience is not essential, so don't panic if you don't have any.
- What hobbies do you have that admissions tutors might want to hear about? Maybe you enjoy crochet or crafts, which demonstrate an attention to detail, or you play FM25 or AirwaySim, which can add to your accounting skills.
- Talk about other relevant skills you've gained from jobs or volunteering, such as looking after money whilst fundraising for a charity, time management through balancing your studies and extracurricular activities, or teamwork from a sport or other activity.

Personal Statement – Question 3



In person work experience	Blogs & vlogs	Positions of responsibility	Projects or essays	Mentoring
Virtual work experience	Documentaries	Awards	Books	Tutoring
Work shadowing	Podcasts	Challenges	Influencers	Online subject courses
Paid employment	TED Talks	Personal life experiences	Hobbies	Trips or visits
Volunteering	Articles	Work based learning / training	Clubs	Competitions

Personal Statement - Tips



Further tips for a good UCAS personal statement

- Use info on university/UCAS website. This often includes the skills and qualities universities are looking for in applicants
- Ask friends, family and teachers to remind you of activities you've participated in. They might remember your successes better than you do
- Don't include lists in your application, Focus on 1 or 2 points and talk about them in depth to show their relevance to your application
- Explain and evidence everything. It's easy to say you have a skill, but it's better to demonstrate it with an example of when and how you've used it
- Avoid clichéd such as 'I've always wanted to be a teacher'
- If you're applying for a joint degree or different subjects, give equal time to each area and try to find common aspects that show their similarities
- Never lie or plagiarise another statement – you'll be caught and your application rejected
- Proofread your personal statement by reading it out loud and ask friends, family or a teacher to check



Personal Statement – Subject Specific Guidance



Use the following link to find your prospective course and read the examples/ideas on what to discuss in each question of the personal statement relevant to your specific course: [2026 personal statement guides | UCAS](#)



What to include in your architecture, planning or building personal statement



What to include in your animal science personal statement



What to include in your art and design personal statement



What to include in your biology personal statement



What to include in your business management personal statement



What to include in your chemistry personal statement



What to include in your computer science personal statement



What to include in your dance personal statement

Personal Statement – Skills



SKILLS EXAMPLES




Personal skills	Transferable skills	Knowledge based
Independence	Communication	Computer programming
Leadership	Teamwork	Playing a musical instrument
Integrity	Organisation	Driving
Patience	Numeracy	Playing a sport
Flexibility	Literacy	Chemical analysis
Compassion	Critical thinking	Speaking a language
Loyalty	Reflection	Graphic design tools
Resilience	Problem solving	First aid
Initiative	Computer literacy	Statistical analysis
Motivation	Attention to detail	Budgeting

Personal Statement



MY ACHIEVEMENTS	MY EXPERIENCES	MY SKILLS



LIST AS MANY ACHIEVEMENTS, PERSONAL EXPERIENCES OR SKILLS YOU HAVE

YOU HAVE 3 MINUTES

GO!



Personal Statement – Specific



REMEMBER TO PEEL

- POINT** MAKE YOUR POINT
- EVIDENCE** BACK IT UP WITH EVIDENCE AND EXAMPLES
- EXPLAIN** EXPLAIN HOW THE EVIDENCE SUPPORTS YOUR POINT
- LINK** LINK IT BACK TO THE COURSE(S)/SUBJECT

- Read university or college course information on UCAS
- Read the course content information on uni or college website
- Look at how a course might be assessed
- Chat to a student ambassador on Unibuddy who already does the course
- Take a subject spotlight session on UCAS
- Take a uni or college subject taster session
- Ask questions of subject lecturers at an open day
- Research job adverts of careers you might be interested in the future
- Take the UCAS careers quiz and look at the skills listed for each result
- Interview someone already in a career you're interested in




Personal Statement



<u>POINT</u>	
<u>EVIDENCE</u>	

<u>EXPLAIN</u>	
<u>LINK</u>	



REMEMBER TO PEEL

Now to put everything together! **Pick one of your achievements, experiences or skills** from activity 1, add some evidence about it (where, when, how, who, etc), add the 'so what' or the relevancy, and finish off by saying how it **could benefit you on the course**.



Materials

- UK personal statement** >
✕ Marked as finished
- Subject References** >
✕ Overall Ref finished / 3 Sub Ref, 3 not finished
- CV / Resumé** >
✉ 1 teacher comment
- Notes for Reference writers** >
✕ 4 notes missing

How to... use the UK Personal statement tool

- At the top of the tool's Start page, add the university subject that you're writing the statement for. This is important because your statement should be written about a specific subject - adding the subject means you're more likely to stay focused on it. You can change the subject later.
- To start editing the statement, from the start page select the green 'Edit' buttons. When you're in the editing interface, use the drop-down guidance to help you:

Examples of what you may want to write about:

- 1. What sparked your interest in the subject area?
- 2. What specific topics are you most interested in?
- 3. What do you want to get out of studying this subject?
- Personal statement dos**

1. Give details. Explain exactly which topics or activities you've taken part in and enjoyed; it's much more illuminating to share one or two detailed examples than five or six brief ones.
2. Give academic examples that demonstrate why you want to study the course and what makes you a good candidate. You need more than just enjoying the subject - that should be obvious to a university!
3. Write about the skills you have and the skills you want to learn, thinking carefully about how these are relevant to your chosen subject or to university in general.



- When you're ready, select 'Save as new version'. All your saved versions appear below the editing interface. This means you'll never lose a previous version of what you've written, just in case you want to go back to something you've since edited.
- Back on the tool's Start page, to see a preview of your personal statement, select the 'Preview' tab. This is how the statement will appear to university admissions staff.
- Teachers can make edits to what you've written, they can add notes on specific things you've written, and they can leave you comments.
- To request feedback on your personal statement, scroll down to the bottom of the Start page, where you have the option to 'Ask a teacher for feedback', or email your statement to anyone by entering the recipient's email address. Once you think your personal statement is finished, at the bottom of the Start page, you can:
 - Ask a teacher to mark it as 'Finished and ready to add to Locker' on the Teacher side of Unifrog
 - Copy the text so you can paste it somewhere (eg into UCAS)
 - Push it into your Locker



Saving your personal statement in your Locker is useful because it keeps a fixed record of your personal statement. You can add several versions to your Locker, and you can replace old versions with newer ones.



Marked as 'Ready to add to Locker' by a teacher? **Not yet**

If you think you have finished, please ask the appropriate teacher to check it and mark it as 'Finished and ready to add to Locker' on the Teacher side of Unifrog.



Need to paste this somewhere?

This copies the text to your clipboard which you can then paste into your applications.

[Copy text >](#)



Ready to push this into your Locker?

This creates a PDF which you can then use in your applications.

[Push to Locker >](#)

The screenshot shows the 'Write' section of the Unifrog interface. At the top, there are two tabs: 'Write' (highlighted with a green border) and 'Preview'. Below the tabs, there are three sections, each with a 'Start >' button. A mouse cursor is pointing at the 'Start >' button for the first section.

- Section 1** (Heart icon): Why do you want to study this course or subject? Characters: 0 (Min 350. Our recommendation is about 1200)
- Section 2** (Thumbs up icon): How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject? Characters: 0 (Min 350. Our recommendation is about 1400)
- Section 3** (Star icon): What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful? Characters: 0 (Min 350. Our recommendation is about 1400)

Personal Statement Guidance - Economics



Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

Examples:

- If you've already been studying economics at A level (or equivalent), talk about an area of the course you've found especially interesting. Try and show some understanding of economic theory.
- Reflect on something that has given you an insight into local, national, European or global economic issues, and explain what interests you about it. Maybe you were fascinated by the market's response to the UK's fast-changing political landscape over the last few years, or how the war in Ukraine affected the global economy.
- Demonstrate that you have a real interest in economic principles and concepts. You could relate it to modules you'd study during your degree. Mention what especially appeals to you about the course you've chosen.
- If you haven't studied economics before, explain what has inspired your interest in it.
- If you can, explain how your degree choice fits with your future ambitions and career aspirations. If you know you want to be a business analyst, for example, say so.

Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

Examples:

- Show an appreciation of mathematical concepts. If you've studied maths, highlight what you enjoyed about probability, statistics, or a project involving qualitative data, and how that might relate to an economics degree.
- If you've undertaken an economics-related project, **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)** or summer school, reflect on any insights this has given you.
- Think of skills you've picked up during your studies and how they'll relate to being an economics student, such as self-motivation, teamwork, the ability to think logically, effective time management, good communication, or problem-solving skills.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try **Subject Spotlights** or **Virtual Work Experiences** from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

Personal Statement Guidance - Economics



Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

Examples:

- What things have you done that are relevant to economics or demonstrate the skills and qualities tutors are looking for? Maybe you've learned about financial analysis through helping a parent or guardian with their small business, or perhaps you've carried out some market research for an online side hustle.
- Talk about your wider reading and pick out one or two specific issues that had an impact on you – try and choose something slightly more obscure, such as Tom Chivers' Everything Is Predictable, rather than a book everybody will reference.
- What hobbies do you have that show you're motivated outside school, and prepared to succeed in something you're interested in? Whether that's progressing in a sport, music, chess or computer programming.

Some more tips to consider

- 1 **Structure and organisation:** To study economics, you need to demonstrate you're capable of managing yourself. Organise your answers in your personal statement coherently and make sure it's free of spelling or grammatical errors.
- 2 **Examples of your relevant skills:** Can you describe situations where you've demonstrated relevant skills like good communication or teamwork, problem-solving, attention to detail, ethical reasoning, or achieving goals?
- 3 **Research the course:** Why do you want to study economics? Be specific about what aspects of the course interest you, how it relates to your academic studies, and what additional reading or other activities have led you to apply.
- 4 **Making your work experience count:** It's not just what you've done but how you've reflected on it. If you work-shadowed the CEO of a large company, that's great, but it will have zero impact unless you spell out what you personally gained from it.
- 5 **Transferable skills:** Whether through extracurricular or supercurricular activities, work experience or a part-time job, you'll have lots of skills that will be relevant to your course. Relate everything to the courses you're applying for – so, you've worked behind the counter in the corner shop? Great, you've got experience in microeconomics!

Personal Statement Guidance - Economics



Skills, experiences, and interests to mention

- ✓ Be sure to highlight any instances where you applied analytical skills in your studies as this is an essential skill for economics.
 - ✓ Maths is also an important subject so mention your ability in successfully applying mathematical concepts.
 - ✓ How aware are you of current economic issues and trends? How do you make sure you're informed about global economic events?
 - ✓ Do you have any experience of leadership? That could be leading study groups, organising events or maybe even joining societies or clubs related to economics.
 - ✓ What difference do you want to make in the world and how would studying economics help you achieve that goal?
-

Personal Statement Guidance - Pharmacology



Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

Examples:

- The University of Manchester is looking for 'a creative statement that demonstrates enthusiasm and commitment for the subject'. Think about what's sparked your interest in your chosen subject through books you've read or TED talks you've enjoyed, such as Dr Jamie Dewitt talking about water pollution, and explain why you want to study it further.
- If you know, mention where you hope this career could take you, whether that's working as a community pharmacist, designing clinical trials or testing food supplies, and make sure it relates to the course you're applying for.
- Show you understand the profession you're applying to through any personal experience too – even if it was just talking to a pharmacist, or learning about pharmacology through visits to university open days or relevant events.

Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

Examples:

- Think what skills and qualities will be required – both to study pharmacy, pharmacology, or toxicology, and to practise it as a profession – then mention things such as lab skills you've picked up at school or times you've demonstrated attention to detail during a science project.
- Relate how you've studied, both independently and as a team, to the skills you'll need during your degree. Perhaps you've also learned analytical skills from sciences, psychology or English literature.
- What projects or clubs have you been involved in, such as Young Enterprise or a drama production, which show your potential management and leadership skills? Think how these may benefit you on your course.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try [Subject Spotlights](#) or [Virtual Work Experiences](#) from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

Personal Statement Guidance - Pharmacology



Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

Examples:

- Pharmacists need patience, empathy, and good customer service skills. If you've had part-time jobs in a cafe, leisure centre or on reception for a business, you'll have picked up a lot of these transferable skills. Mention any caring roles you've had too.
- As a pharmacologist or toxicologist, you'll focus a lot on laboratory work and scientific skills, so relate any experiences you've had conducting experiments at college or at home and what qualities you picked up from them, such as attention, focus, teamwork, and critical thinking.
- Your hobbies and interests will also have taught you things, whether it's adapting and going back over information when you're coding or gaming, or perseverance and commitment to something you enjoy such as learning a musical instrument or building up to a Crossfit handstand!

How to set yourself apart

The key to setting yourself apart in your application is to remember how important the 'personal' bit is to your personal statement. What makes you, you?

What journals do you read or scientists do you follow that show your unique interest in your chosen subject? Maybe you follow the [British Toxicology Society](#) on LinkedIn, or you're a fan of [Forensics Talks](#) on YouTube – try and illustrate the knowledge this has given you and where you think you might take your career.

Reference your personal life or interests if they demonstrate relevant skills, whether that's empathy from caring for a parent or relative, motivation and enthusiasm from creating a TikTok channel showing off your science knowledge, or teamwork and leadership from being captain of the football team.

Think how else you can make yourself stand out, without going overboard. It's even better if you can link it to something you've learned in your chemistry, biology, or psychology studies, or read in the [New Scientist](#) or the [BBC Science Focus Magazine](#), or watched on [Expert Witness](#).

Tutors at University of Bath expect you to demonstrate your enthusiasm and interest in pharmacy and evidence of your understanding of the role of a pharmacist. This doesn't mean telling them what a pharmacist does, but reflecting on what you've found out for yourself through your research and any relevant visits, volunteering or work experience.

Personal Statement Guidance - Pharmacology



Some more tips to consider

- 1 Commitment to the profession:** Cardiff University's admissions tutors assess your suitability by the way you demonstrate your 'knowledge of the science and practice of pharmacy' through your 'background reading or work experience'. On its website, Aston University offers examples of how the emphasis of a pharmacist's role has changed, and mentions some of the key skills you might want to evidence in your statement, such as a growth mindset, ambition, and critical thinking.
- 2 Relevant work experience:** Admissions tutors at Keele University are keen to hear about any relevant experience, what you feel you've gained from it, and how it has helped you to understand more about what your future career in pharmacy, toxicology or pharmacology might involve.
- 3 Other relevant skills:** Reflect on any applicable skills you've gained in academic, social or work settings, whether it's teamwork, communication, leadership, caring for others, or how you balance work with relaxation. But don't exaggerate this. Be mindful that tutors will also read your reference to see if it fits with what you've said about yourself in the statement.
- 4 Your wider reading:** University of Reading reinforces that the best way to stand out from the crowd is through the way you explain what interests you about your chosen subject, your comments on the relevant reading and research you've done, and/or the experience you've had.

[Pharmacy Personal Statement | What To Include | UCAS](#)

Skills, experiences, and interests to mention

- ✓ Consider demonstrating both your science and healthcare knowledge – alongside softer skills such as strong communication skills, compassion, and empathy if you want to be a pharmacist. Mention journals you read or scientists you follow, and your views on some of the issues they raise. For the softer skills, can you give an example of when you've helped a friend or relative, or undertaken volunteer work.
- ✓ Can you show your commitment to the subject with any volunteer positions or weekend jobs in your community pharmacy, hospital, or GP practice, or any scientific companies in your local area?
- ✓ As a pharmacist, you'll be a forward-facing medical professional who'll need good people skills. What clubs have you joined or started, or part-time jobs have you done that show you're good with people, and understand customer service?
- ✓ As a pharmacist, pharmacologist, or toxicologist, you'll need to be able to work effectively as part of a wider team, work under pressure, and demonstrate high levels of accuracy. What hobbies or jobs have you had that show highlight these skills, like project work at college, competing at a high level in a team sport, or even working in a busy bar/caf e?
- ✓ Pharmacology and toxicology degrees will focus more on the scientific and analytical side, leading to much more lab work and experimentation. Have you had lab experience you can mention, or carried out any experiments at home?
- ✓ What about your ability to work independently as well as a team? Think about how you can show you have those skills required for your future job.

Personal Statement Guidance - Law



Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

Examples:

- Focus in on aspects of law that are of particular interest to you, whether that's criminal, contract or international human rights law, how it relates to your current studies, and what additional reading you've embarked on.
- If you haven't studied law at A level or equivalent, demonstrate your engagement with law through a book you've read that had a legal dimension to it, such as *In Your Defence*, *The Sentence*, or *In Black and White*.
- The University of Cambridge (and many other universities) like applicants who keep up-to-date with current affairs and who are interested in the legal implications of the latest news stories. Maybe you've been following changes to employment law or the rights of consumers when their personal details are stolen. How did that make you want to study law further?
- Don't forget, if you're applying for law in combination with a different subject, make sure you demonstrate something relevant to the other subject too.

Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

This is your chance to shout about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

Examples:

- What projects or coursework have you done that's relevant, such as analytical essays or a critique of something? If you have the opportunity to conduct a personal project or the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), consider giving it a legal focus.
- If you've studied English, drama, or sciences, explain how they've helped you with public speaking, persuasive writing, or attention to detail.
- What have you done outside school to learn more about law? Maybe you got work experience at a law firm or visited your local magistrates' court. Explain how those experiences informed your decision to study this subject.
- Have you done any online courses to boost your knowledge in the subject? For example, why not try [Subject Spotlights](#) or [Virtual Work Experiences](#) from Springpod to grow your skills and interest?

Personal Statement Guidance - Law



Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education, or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

Examples:

- Whether you've done a mini-pupillage, or shadowed at your local Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), mention any relevant work experience and what you gained from it.
- Think laterally too – if you do shifts in a supermarket or a Saturday job in a shop, you'll have picked up communications and sales skills, which can be important as a solicitor.
- What have you drawn from your extracurricular activities? Maybe teaching yourself to code or crochet has taught you attention to detail. Maybe you're an avid cook or reader of fiction and you can scan texts and take information in quickly.

What should you write in a law personal statement?

Bringing your interest in law to life is key. If you're already studying law, then you might want to talk about topics you've enjoyed and any wider reading you've done.

Haven't studied law at A level (or equivalent)? Don't worry – there aren't usually subject-specific entry requirements for law degrees. Learn more about the 'unspoken rules' of university entry requirements here.

Dr Murphy suggests these other ways to demonstrate your engagement with law:

- A book you've read that had a legal dimension to it.
- Work experience, which could be in a solicitor's firm or a mini-pupillage, but equally could be shadowing at your local Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), some charity work, or even your Saturday job.
- Visiting your local magistrates' court, the Crown Court, or your nearest employment tribunal. As Dr Murphy puts it, 'the English legal system is open and receptive to those wishing to experience law in action'.
- Join a debating club, or start your own. If you have the opportunity to conduct a personal project or the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), consider giving it a legal focus.

But don't simply list what you've done. Write about relevant experiences in your statement in a reflective way. What did you see? What did you learn? Why did it enhance your interest in law?

Personal Statement Guidance - Law



Skills, experiences, and interests to mention

- ✓ Think about persuasive writing. Have you ever written a letter to an MP, or even your parents, asking them for something? How might that help you as a future solicitor?
 - ✓ Do you enjoy public speaking? Did you join the debating club at school? What other clubs did you enjoy at school that might lend themselves to a role as a barrister or judge?
 - ✓ Are you passionate about reading? What kind of books do you enjoy? Are there any books you've read that had a legal dimension to them?
 - ✓ Or maybe you like scrolling through the news online, keeping up-to-date with current affairs? What are the legal implications of some of the stories you've read?
 - ✓ What work experience, or volunteering, have you done or could you do? Have you worked at your local solicitor's firm, or done charity work - for example, helping a refugees charity with asylum applications?
 - ✓ Is there a local solicitor's firm where you could get some work experience? Have you been to your local magistrates' court, or what buildings have you visited that represent our legal system? How can you demonstrate your interest in the subject?
-

Afternoon Session – Get Writing

Using the UniFrog platform, being crafting your personal statement, you have just short of an hour to dedicate time to this now!!!

You have examples provided for you in your booklet, and can also find examples online

Your supervising teacher is also happy to lend an ear

Personal Statement First Draft



Form tutors are responsible for checking your personal statements

They will be asking to see what you have done so far with your personal statement during your Academic Review Week - July

It would be ideal to have as much of the statement completed by this point.

Please complete this on Unifrog as it is a lot easier to monitor and give feedback on, as well as keeping everything for your application in one place. Tutors can view your personal statement on UniFrog.

Do try and get other people to view your personal statements – this could be family, friends or if they have the time, Subject teachers.

What now?



- Go away and research the skills and desirables for your course – look at UCAS subject guides and the universities specific requirements and desirables.
- Begin using UniFrog to draft your personal statement
- Write down all of your experiences, skills and achievements – how do they link to the course
- You will be given time during form time to continue crafting your personal statements (May-July)
- Form tutors to support, feedback during form time
- Personal statement final draft due before summer holidays – with a refined version on 1st day back in September