

How to make it stand out

Personal Statement – How to stand out

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- The personal statement is a statement of academic intent – a statement of why a student wishes to take a course
- With so many students meeting entry requirements the personal statement is one of the key ways students can set themselves apart from other students



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Durham University suggest three key areas:

1. Why do you want to study this subject/follow the career?
2. What have you done that makes you particularly suitable to study the subject/follow the career?
3. What else have you done that would contribute to the course and institution and makes you an interesting and unique individual?

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In this presentation I want to focus on

2. What have you done that makes you particularly suitable to study the subject/follow the career?

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Why?

- This is the area that can set a student apart
- Still time to make a difference and do something

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- What have you done that makes you particularly suitable to study the subject?
- Make sure you do something and you can write about it!!

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- What can I do?
- Take on additional courses - EPQ
- Read publications related to your subject
- Follow two or three stories/events/issues in details
- Set up a club
- Join a group
- Read widely - outside your period in history
- Read widely - outside your set texts



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- Familiarise yourself with the work of key artists
- Be able to reflect on what you have read
- Do some creative writing
- Be a part of a book group - start one
- Join a society - history, geography
- Follow a legal case
- Research mathematical theories outside the A level course
- Go to public lectures



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- Visit inspiring buildings
- Visit art exhibitions
- Visit theatre and explore different genres of theatre
- Visit historical sites, museums and exhibitions
- Reflect on what you have gained from the visits
- Volunteer
- Act as a mentor
- Get appropriate work experience



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- Placements at small companies may give you a wide range of experience
- Attend insight days
- If work experience not available- look wider
- Dentistry - volunteer to teach younger children about dental hygiene
- Take part in an activity that requires high level manual dexterity
- Medicine/Nursing - work in a care home, work with disabled children
- Consider an internship
- Attend university taster courses



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- How you can support
- Familiarise yourself with the structure of the personal statement
- Talk to your son/daughter about their personal statement
- Discuss what they have done “extra”
- Help them with contacts

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- Use our Moodle Page

Next Steps – Progression Beyond Sixth Form

Timing

- From our Progression Days at the end of June students can begin their forms
- Fast track ready for end of this term
- Forms can be sent from the middle of September
- All forms sent by October half-term

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Beware Plagiarism

What happens if a personal statement has similarities?

- Any statements showing a level of similarity of 10% or more are reviewed by members of the UCAS Similarity Detection Service Team.
- Applicants, universities and colleges are notified at the same time by email when an application has similarities confirmed.
- Admissions tutors at individual universities and colleges decide what action, if any, to take regarding reported cases.
- <http://www.ucas.ac.uk/students/applying/howtoapply/personalstatement/similaritydetection>