



Helping your child write a personal statement:

A guide for parents/carers

UCAS 2024-2025





Your child's Personal Statement is one of the most important parts of their UCAS application. This is the section where you are given the opportunity to explain your course choice(s) and highlight the skills and experiences that make you stand out from the crowd.

Universities are looking for the candidate to show they are ready for higher education. It is important that you highlight your academic and personal skills and demonstrate that you are a student who has the commitment to work hard until the end of a three or four year course. Research your choices thoroughly and show an insight of the courses and your ultimate career.

Length: Up to 4,000 characters or 47 lines of text (including spaces and blank lines that is approximately 600 words).

Preparation:

Help your child think about all their positive attributes. Write down lots of words that show why they are excited about the course and why they are suitable.

A good personal statement should:

- Be well thought out and give details of the course you are applying for.
- Provide details of any background interests you have in the subject.
- Discuss your skills and experience without exaggerating. Outline how these relate to the course(s) you are applying for.
- Outline the type of career you would like to pursue in the future.
- Include personal achievements you are particularly proud of and positions of responsibility you have held e.g. School Captain, Senior Prefect, Prefect, Buddy, DoF, part time employment etc
- Discuss your interests and hobbies detailing what you do and how it makes you a well-rounded individual. Universities love to know that you look after your mental health and wellbeing.
- Show that you are ready for university and you have the skills to succeed in a higher education environment e.g. motivated, well disciplined, hard working, sociable etc.
- Be original – UCAS software scans all personal statements for plagiarism

When making notes for your personal statement try to consider the following;

The course you are applying to:

Why are you applying for your chosen course?

Why does this subject interest you? Include evidence that you understand what is required to study the course e.g. If applying for Geography, you understand that there is science involved.



Why do you think you are suitable for the course(s)? What skills and experience do you have that will help you succeed?

Do your current or previous studies relate to the course that you have chosen? If so, how?

Have you taken part in any other activities that demonstrate your interest in the course(s)?

Skills and achievements:

What skills or achievements do you have, accredited or non-accredited? Remember all the wider achievement activities you have been involved in during your time at Boclair.

Have you held positions of responsibility both in and out of school that show you are responsible and/or a good leader and team player.

Hobbies and interests:

Make a list of your hobbies, interests and social activities. How have they enhanced your personality and abilities? Try to link these to the course you have selected.

Work Experience:

Include details of jobs, work experience or voluntary work, particularly those which are relevant to your chosen course(s).

Future plans:

If you know what you would like to achieve after completing the course, explain how you want to use the knowledge and experience that you gain. How does the course relate to what you want to do in the future?

Personal Statement outline

Your personal statement is like a short essay and should be built like an argument. This is a difficult piece of work with the end goal of persuading admissions that you are the right person to be selected for the course. It is important that you show your personality and at the same time highlight that your skills, abilities and experiences are suitable for the course and university you are applying for.

There are many patterns which can be used for a personal statement, below is only one example:

Part A: The course you are applying for and why it interests you

- Exciting, catchy opening about why you want to study this course.
- What makes you want to study this course over any other courses.

Part B: How your academic studies relate to the course

- How does your current studies support and prepare you for the course(s) you are applying for?



- What do you particularly enjoy from your relevant subjects e.g. Mention actual texts, visits, topics, experiences etc. Try to demonstrate your enthusiasm.
- Mention relevant skills, qualities, work experience and inspirational moments.

Part C: Why you

- Outline your interests, hobbies and experiences out with school that relate to your course
- Put down any awards or prizes which may emphasise your skills and abilities.
- Demonstrate that you are the type of person the university will want to invest in and how well you will fit into university life.

Part D: Conclusion

- Try to come to a natural conclusion if you have not already done so.
- Consider what you have said and what this means to you. Focus on yourself, what you have to offer and round up.

Your child can apply to more than one course but can write only one personal statement so it is important that it is relevant to all the courses being applied to.

Further information and support is available on the UCAS website –

<https://www.ucas.com/>

and a section specifically for parents/carers –

<https://www.ucas.com/discover/advice-parents-guardians-and-carers/parent-guardian-and-carer-guide>

UCAS applicants will receive a lot of support in school from their guidance teacher. Should you wish to discuss anything in relation to UCAS please contact your child's guidance teacher in the first instance.

Useful information –

Early applicants – drop in for parents/carers – Tuesday 24th September 4.30pm-5.30pm

Early applicants submission date – 8th October 2024

UCAS information evening for all parents/carers – Tuesday 22nd October 6pm-7pm
Application submission date – 29th January 2025