

Your Personal Statement: Worksheet & Template

Note: the text in the boxes is to be used for example purposes only. DO NOT COPY.

Make a list of reasons why you want to study this subject and what influenced your thinking.

Example

It was on a recent sports tour to the Far East that I was immediately struck by how much of my work in Geography was apparent. At first hand I was witnessing the 'haves' and 'have nots' that have emerged from the process of globalisation. This proved a fascinating, if humbling, experience for me, and my decision to read Geography beyond A Level was cemented here.

List some examples of when you have demonstrated the core skills, aptitude and critical thinking necessary for your chosen subject

Example

Although Professor Hawking opens 'The Grand Design' by proclaiming that philosophy is dead, many of his arguments (like his proposal of Model Dependent-Realism) are philosophical, and I was disappointed by his reluctance to aim for a more unified theory.

Can you list occasions when you have demonstrated hard work and diligence in your chosen subject area?

Example

Maths has supported my fieldwork investigations well and has given me experience in hypothesis testing and statistical analysis. This was vital when I was analysing data collected in the field on the south coast.

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List examples of when you have demonstrated an interest in your subject outside the classroom

Example

In addition, I assist in editing the School's Geography magazine, which has allowed me to research more subject areas which are not linked to my subject specification and view topics from a slightly different angle.

Write about your extra-curricular activities and interests outside the classroom. Think about how these activities might be relevant your application.

Example

This year I was selected to be Vice Captain of the 1st XV Rugby team and Captain of Swimming which will allow me to further develop my leadership, teamwork and organisational skills.

List any other relevant qualifications and awards which may support your application

Example

Recently, I have started learning kickboxing and mixed martial arts and have obtained the purple belt in kickboxing. It is my ambition to gain my black belt whilst at university.

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Personal Statement Structure: Template

Introduction

Open by demonstrating enthusiasm, passion and a genuine account of why you want to study **this subject** in particular. Begin with a quote if relevant.

Example (Philosophy and Physics)

My desire to understand the nature of reality has inspired me to apply for Physics and Philosophy: I am excited by the chance to study the fundamental laws and structure of the universe and deepen this understanding through the analysis of the assumptions and methodology underpinning physics.

Why you're an academic fit for this course

Talk about how your skills and aptitude make you a good fit for this particular course.

Example (Geography)

I have really enjoyed my A Level Geography course as it has provided me with a clearer insight into processes that are likely to shape world events in my lifetime and this is a discipline that I honestly feel I can contribute to.

Explain what you're studying in more detail.

Talk about your studies, any projects or relevant reading you've done. Engage critically with what you've studied, and mention any extra-curricular work you've done around your chosen subject.

Example (Geography)

I subscribe to National Geographic and have furthered my research into cultural Geography by read-ing Barbara Demick's 'Nothing to Envy'. This was an incredible book and it has supported my subsequent work well. I have also read Rachel Carson's 'Silent Spring', which explores the impact of technological change on global geographies.

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List any relevant clubs/societies/activities *relevant* to your application.

Continuing on from the previous section, talk about any other extra-curricular activities which demonstrate skills which will impress an admissions tutor. You could also use this section to mention a gap year, if you plan on taking one.

Example (Geography)

I am a keen sportsman and represent the school at first team level in rugby, swimming and hockey. I play for the U19 team at Woodford RFC. Recently, I have started learning kickboxing and mixed martial arts and have obtained the purple belt in kickboxing. It is my ambition to gain my black belt whilst at university. It is through these activities that my confidence and determination have increased; all of these require a great deal of personal motivation and focus.

Conclusion

Make sure you tie together all the preceding paragraphs into a cohesive conclusion. Talk about why the skills, aptitudes and experiences you have listed make you a suitable candidate for this course. Look to the future and, if you can, talk more about your ambitions for your career, and how this course will help you get there!

Example (Medicine)

Interest in Medicine aside, other enthusiasms of mine include languages, philosophy, and mythology. It is curiously fitting that in ancient Greek lore, healing was but one of the many arts Apollo presided over, alongside archery and music. I firmly believe that a doctor should explore the world outside the field of Medicine, and it is with such experiences that I hope to better empathise and connect with the patients I will care for in my medical career.

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