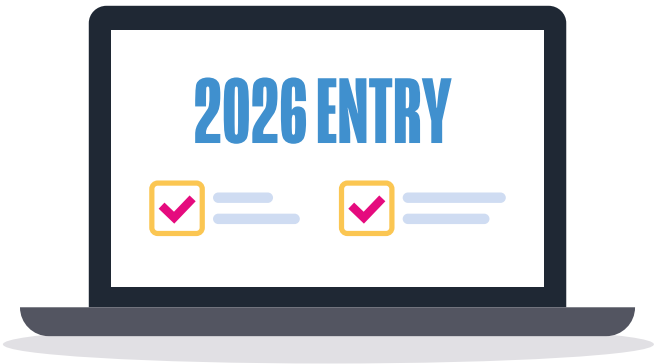
UCAS

STUDENT GUIDANCE

TOP TIPS FOR WRITING YOUR **PERSONAL STATEMENT** FOR 2026 ENTRY

Use this **checklist** to guide you through writing your **personal statement for 2026 entry** using the new **three questions**. By following this checklist, you'll be well on your way to creating a personal statement that truly represents you and your aspirations.





GENERAL TIPS:

- **Start early:** Begin drafting your statement well in advance to allow ample time for reflection and editing.
- **Be authentic:** Let your true personality and passion shine. Admissions Tutors are interested in the real you.
- **Avoid clichés:** Start with your own thoughts and avoid overused quotes to make your statement unique.
- **Focus your application:** Aim to concentrate on one course or closely related subjects to demonstrate clear intent.

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QUESTION-SPECIFIC TIPS:

Q1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

- **Showcase passion:** Clearly articulate what excites you about the subject and how your interest has evolved.
- **Align with career goals:** Explain how the course fits into your future aspirations.
- **Share personal experiences**: Include relevant experiences that sparked or nurtured your interest. You can also highlight responsibilities that have honed your time management, leadership, or problem-solving abilities.

Q2: How have your qualifications and studies prepared you for this course?

- **Link skills to success:** Highlight specific skills gained from your academic journey that are pertinent to the course.
- **Highlight achievements:** Discuss academic accomplishments and how they've readied you for university-level study.
- **Reflect on learning:** Explain how particular subjects or projects have deepened your interest and preparedness.

Q3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

- **Include super-curricular activities:** Mention relevant activities like work experience, volunteering, or related hobbies.
- **Demonstrate transferable skills:** Highlight skills gained from part-time jobs or extra-curriculars, such as leadership or teamwork.
- **Personal relevance:** Choose experiences that are meaningful and demonstrate commitment to the subject. You can also share how you've navigated financial, familial, or environmental obstacles.

WHAT TO AVOID:

- **Generic statements:** Be specific; avoid vague phrases that don't add value.
- **Repetition:** Ensure each section offers new insights without overlapping information.
- **Overloading skills:** Focus on a few key skills with evidence rather than listing many without depth.

FINAL CHECKS:

- **Proofread:** Eliminate spelling and grammar errors. Consider multiple reviews.
- **Seek feedback:** Get input from teachers or advisors who know you well.
- **Ensure relevance:** Every point should support why you're an ideal candidate for the course.

FOR STUDENTS WITHOUT EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

- **Emphasise academics:** Dive deep into challenging projects or coursework that showcase your dedication.
- **Highlight transferable skills:** Discuss skills gained from classroom experiences or part-time work.
- **Share personal growth:** Reflect on overcoming challenges or engaging in independent learning.

