

Manchester Live: UCAS Application Process – transcript

Date of webinar: 25 June 2020

0:00

OK, good afternoon everybody. Before we get started, I just want to make sure that you can all hear me OK, and see my screen OK. So you should have a little hand icon, if you can just press that. Just make sure that I can see everyone. Lovely.

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Great stuff.

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That's fantastic. Yes, thank you very much. So welcome to the art of application session for this afternoon's webinar.

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My name is Chris Farrington and I work at the University of Manchester as a student recruitment co-ordinator. With me on the call today, I have my colleagues Maddie Foster, Rebecca Moran, and Nicole Davies, and they will be managing the chat function.

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So, if you've got any questions throughout today's session, you can go to the chat function, submit your question, and my colleagues will be able to help you.

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So, just before we get started,

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This is what we're gonna cover today. So I'm going to give a very brief explanation into what UCAS is, then I'll focus on the application form and the process itself.

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Then I'm gonna spend some time looking at the personal statement, and then we'll finish with references and things that you need to consider when making an application.

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So, to begin with, you may already know what UCAS is. And that's absolutely fine. It's always good to get a reminder. But for anyone who is a little bit unfamiliar,

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UCAS is the application system that manages all HE application in the UK. So if you are going to make an application to a UK based institution, you'll make it online via UCAS.

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The UCAS system allows you to track and apply online. So this basically allows you to manage your application and track the progress of that application. So if you are made an offer, the offer will update in your track and apply.

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If you're invited in for interview, et cetera, if you're unsuccessful in an application, it will all update on your application account, which is the track and apply online.

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As it says there, it is also an unbiased guide for students, parents and advisors, UCAS has no affiliation to any particular university.

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It's there to provide impartial information, advice, and guidance to anyone who's making an application to the UK.

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So, what I'm gonna look at now is the application form and process.

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So these are some key features for the application itself. So, the UCAS application form is an online form, and you get to choose up to five choices. So, if you are looking to apply for medicine, dentistry or veterinary science, of those five choices, four can be in those areas.

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And then your fifth choice, if you study medicine, for example, has to be something outside of medicine. So for instance, biology, as an example. You can apply only to Oxford or Cambridge, you can't apply to both of them, so that's something you just need to keep into account.

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There is a cost involved, so there's a minimum of £20 for one choice or £25 if you wanted to make multiple course choices.

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So just to make you aware, that if you were to make one choice initially, you put in one application, but then you wanted to add to those choices to complete the five choices that you're looking for, you'll just pay the £5 supplement.

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Those choices don't have to be at the same university.

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They can be at five separate universities, or they could be all at the same university, it is entirely up to you.

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At the point of application, until you actually make your decision, only the universities that you're applying to will see those choices. So if you make an application to Manchester, and then four other choices, Manchester will only be able to see that one choice that you've applied for to them.

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And there are lots of sections that will be filled in by you and your school and college, and this is what we will look at throughout the session today.

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So in terms of key dates

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For the application process, the launch of UCAS Apply is now live so you can actually start making your account and start looking at your application.

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From the eighth of September, you'll be able to submit these to UCAS. So your applications will be able to be submitted to UCAS from the eighth of September.

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Now, when it comes to the deadlines - the 15th of October would be the traditional deadline in medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, or any applications to Oxford or Cambridge.

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What I would say, though, about the 15th of October, is this deadline - due to the current circumstances - it may change. We haven't had confirmation of when the deadline will be. If that does change the UCAS Application Website will be able to provide further information but these are traditional dates in terms of deadlines.

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So that's just worth pointing out.

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For all other applications, the on time application deadline, or equal consideration deadline, as it's known, will be the 15th of January.

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Then you normally have until early May to make your decisions. Again, I've not put that on today's session, the actual date, because we're yet to hear what it will be for 2021 entry.

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In terms of deadlines, though, for medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, Oxford, and Cambridge applications, the 15th of October is the traditional deadline date, and the 15th of January is the on-time equal consideration deadline for most other courses.

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It is important thought to keep to internal deadlines at your school or college. They may put something forward like the middle of October, the end of October, the middle of November, for example.

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So what we advise is, any internal deadline your school or college gives you, please make sure you stick to that.

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Just to give you a little bit more information about the UCAS Equal Consideration deadline, give it a bit more context, UCAS applications are not a first come first served basis.

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All applications are considered on individual merits, regardless of the submission time, provided you get it in by that particular deadline.

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So, for instance, if you are applying to a course like law, for example, getting it in on the 8th of September or the 14th January, you're not at any advantage, because it will be given equal consideration.

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It is good though to get your application out of the way, so you can focus on attaining the best possible academic grades that you can.

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And we will offer more places than there are available as well to offer holders. And there are multiple reasons why we do this. Not all applicants who are made the offer will accept that offer as their first choice, for example. They might not even accept the offer at all. So don't worry about the amount of places that are available. Worry about getting your application in and focusing on that particular deadline - whichever one is applicable to you when it comes to making an application.

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So just to sum up the application process, you'll create your application and submit it to UCAS.

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UCAS will then acknowledge it, then they issue it to your five choices. As I mentioned at the beginning, that could be five separate universities, or it could be five choices within the same university. It's entirely up to you which applications you want to make to which universities.

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You will make one UCAS application, which will be distributed to those five choices that you make.

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So the personal statement will be crucial when it comes to actually submitting your application and getting your application to the very best possible state it can be, to put you in the best position possible to be considered for a particular degree program.

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So here's some things that you'll need to know about the personal statement.

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It will be a maximum of 4000 characters, or 47 lines, whichever comes first. So there is a character count or a line count that you need to adhere to when you actually make your application.

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You will write one personal statement for all your choices.

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So you need to bear in mind that, if you apply to Manchester and you reference Manchester in your application, but you also apply to 2 or 3 other universities, they will see that you referenced Manchester in the personal statement. So it's a good idea

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Not to actually reference any specific institution in your application.

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We believe that it should be written in paragraphs. This will add to your character count or line count, obviously, if you leave a line, it will count towards the allocated 47 lines that it needs to be.

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What I would say, though, is if you put it in paragraphs, it's a clear way of displaying your personal statement. It's a lot easier for admission tutors to read through and extract the relevant information and skills that you will have for your particular personal statement.

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You have to bear in mind that some university courses will receive hundreds of applications.

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Admissions tutors may be reading through 200, 300, 400 different personal statements.

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So the easier you make it for those admissions tutors to extract the relevant information, that is going to be key to highlighting what a good student you will be for a particular degree program, how appropriate you are to that particular degree program, is really crucial.

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And the personal statement can be used different stages of your application cycle.

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For example, if you are applying for a course where you are going to be invited in for an interview, the personal statement will form the basis of discussion for that particular interview. I'll go on to that in a bit more detail in a moment.

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So this is admissions criteria, taken from the University of Manchester's admissions policy. So what we're looking for in a student, is for them to demonstrate in their application understanding, that they've got the potential to succeed at university,

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That is an independent application, and what they can contribute as a student as well.

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So, just to go through each one of those and give them a little bit more substance.

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Understanding is shown in your personal statement that you are fully aware of the course you are applying to.

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You're aware of the skills that will be required for that particular degree program.

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You can articulate in your personal statement, skills that you're using in academia that can be transferred over to that degree program.

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You actually are able to put across an understanding of that particular area, in a lot more detail.

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An example I use, I used to work in the School of Computer Science Admissions team. Computer Science and IT are two very different subjects. And we would often get applications that were very much based on an IT program. So it would show that they didn't quite have the full understanding of what the actual computer science program consisted of.

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Potential is we're looking at, obviously, your academic profile.

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So GCSEs, for example. That you chose the right A level grades, or the right academic qualifications to be successful in this course. Or they're applicable for the degree program you're applying to.

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But, again, as I mentioned, in terms of like understanding, you are actually articulating skills that you're using in academia, volunteer work, experience, that are going to be applicable and relevant for the degree program you're applying to. And it's really a great opportunity in your personal statement to highlight what those skills are when you're making your application.

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We want your application to be personal from you, that you have the desire and motivation to study this particular degree program.

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When people are applying for something, because they feel like that they should do it, or maybe people think that they should go to a particular course, or family, friends or advisors think they should go for a particular course, and they're not motivated to actually study that particular degree programme, it does show in the application - particularly in the personal statement. It's very important that you have got the passion when you're applying for the particular degree, that this is something that's coming from inside you.

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That you want to actually study this degree program in further depth.

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Contribution is what can you contribute as a student? What extracurricular activities have you done, what volunteering have you done, just as two examples? What could you contribute as a student at the universities that you're applying to?

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So this is how we consider evidence to see if you are an appropriate student.

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This is based on the University of Manchester, but other universities may have similar processes in place.

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They'll have similar criteria that they look for as well, and consider in applications. But we look for predicted rates, your academic performance, your personal statement, and your reference, and there may be cases where you'll have an admissions test or an interview, as well.

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So, we want to make sure that you are selecting the right subjects, for that particular degree program, at A level, for example.

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If you go onto the course profiles on our website, it actually highlights and outlines all the entry requirements for the particular degree programs that we offer. Your academic performance - so looking at what you're academic profile is, in terms of previous qualifications.

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What further qualifications you may have.

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Also, as well, it's pinpointing and highlighting skills that you've used in academia and developed in academia.

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The can actually transfer across and help you in the degree program you're applying to.

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We look at the personal statement, and I'll come on to that in lot more detail in a moment.

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Your reference is also extremely important. It's very important that you have a strong, close relationship with your academic referee, because, effectively, they're writing a statement to back up your personal statement.

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So, the reference. If they are aware of your enthusiasm and motivation to study a particular degree program, they can write

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How much you want to actually go on to this particular degree program.

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How much desire and passion there is to succeed, in the degree area that you're looking for. So they are basically looking to back up everything you write in your personal statement, within your reference.

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Again, I've mentioned course profiles online to find out lots of useful information about courses, but it also gives you information about the application process for that particular program as well.

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So if there is going to be an admissions test or interview.

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There's a tab on the course profiles that will let you know if that is going to be the case. Let's take medicine, for example. You'll be asked to sit the UK CAT test as part of the application process, and you'll also be invited in for an interview as well.

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The University of Manchester Law degree, for example, you don't have to sit a test in order to be considered, but other universities will ask for that test as part of the application process.

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So it's really important, whichever universities you're applying to, you're looking at everybody's different application processes and procedures and what evidence they're considering in order to be successful on the degree program.

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So we are going to go through some things now, which your personal statement should include in any application that you make. So first and foremost, the easiest one in my opinion, is the reasons for choosing the course.

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So this is the motivation that you've got to study that degree in more detail; the enthusiasm and the passion that you've got. Why is it? What journals have you read? What studies have you looked into?

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What is it that is making you want to actually choose that degree program?

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We're also looking at your academic and personal abilities as well.

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So, as I've said in the previous slides, what transferable skills have you got? What academic skills have you got that

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Are going to help you in the degree program? It is really important to research applications when you're looking to make an application to a university.

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The course profile outlines how courses are taught, structured, assessed, modular content for each year of the degree, that type of thing.

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So, if you actually start looking at what your academic skills are, and attribute that to what we're looking for, or what universities are looking for, it actually demonstrates and highlights

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The research that you've been doing for an application. So pinpointing skills and personal attributes that are really important to demonstrate that you are the right person for a degree program.

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What work experience or volunteer skills do you have?

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So again, it's not just saying that you're taking part in work experience or volunteering, it's about breaking it down, dissecting it, and picking out the relevant skills that are going to attribute across to the degree program.

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What are your outside interests?

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Some applications, some university degree programs, will only look at your application as part of the application process, you won't be interviewed and you won't need to have admissions tests.

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So it's really important to be getting across in your personal statement, who you are as a fully rounded student.

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Certain times of the year, university can be quite a stressful environment, coursework deadlines, you got exams, et cetera.

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How do you relax? How do you unwind? How do you cope with stress? What are your mechanisms to cope with stress?

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Putting in outside interests - what you do in terms of extracurricular activities, that type of thing - is really important as part of the application.

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What are your aspirations for being a student, what do you want to achieve in your student life?

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We always say apply for the course and not the career itself, but you can talk about aspirations in terms of what you want to achieve as a student at university.

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The personal statement should also highlight any further qualifications that you have as well.

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So think about, if you're doing, for instance, an EPQ Qualification, an extended project, you're using lots of research skills, for example. Again, it's saying what you're doing in terms

of that project. What skills are you demonstrating? What skills are you developing? How are they going to help you when it comes to a degree at university?

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So any further qualifications, pinpointing and extracting the relevant skills is going to be really important, and articulate them in your personal statement.

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So in terms of how we use your personal statement, as I mentioned.

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First and foremost, if you are invited in for an interview, it will form the basis of any discussion at an interview with an academic tutor. They will look through your application process and they will ask you questions about it. They will want to find out more information and more detail about the examples that you've used in your personal statement.

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We'll also use the statement when differentiating between applicants.

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So it's not just about having the right academic profile, the right predicted grades, et cetera. They want to see that passion and enthusiasm and understanding of what the course is in the personal statement, and they can use that to differentiate between applicants.

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It's an opportunity in the personal statement, as well, to provide further information about your academic background. If there's any mitigating circumstances, for example, which you've had to endure and deal with throughout your study. Whether it be A levels, BTECs, IBs, et cetera.

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The personal statement is an opportunity to put them in to say, this is what I've had to deal with.

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And again, if you have a close relationship with your referee, they can back that up in their reference as well.

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So it's an opportunity to give us information, for example, about mitigating circumstances. During the clearing and adjustment process.

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So clearing and adjustment is when results are released, so

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Traditionally the A level results in the UK, which is usually mid-August. If you narrowly miss your offer,

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By a grade, it's possible that when we are seeing which students we can still admit to the course, even though they narrowly missed out, referring back to personal statements, thinking about what you've put in that statement, how you've articulated skills, desires, and passion for the particular degree program, how you are an appropriate, applicable, relevant applicant.

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That is where it could actually make a huge difference.

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Obviously, clearing, if you miss your grade, it will be on a case by case basis. And we can't make any guarantees. But if you were to miss your grades narrowly,

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The personal statement could be, something that actually pushes you into a bracket where you would still be admitted onto the degree course.

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We'll also use the personal statements to advise students.

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So as I mentioned a few slides ago, my experiences working in the Admission school of Computer science, we would receive applicants that were very strong applications.

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You could see they have potential, but unfortunately, they were applying for a course which, judging by the personal statement, they weren't quite right for.

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However we could offer them a different course, potentially, instead of the course that they originally applied for. So, the personal statement can be used to make what is known as change of course offers. So, you've applied for course A, you're not quite right for it, but we feel course B will be the right avenue or path for you to go down.

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Some departments and programs will ask for additional statements, and medicine is a good example of this.

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You provide your personal statement, you put in your application, then if they want to pursue your application further, they will ask you to

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Put an additional statement forward as well, and will give you details of what they want from that statement.

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So, it might be a case that you're asking to build on the personal statement and actually add more context and more depth to what you've actually put in that personal statement as part of the application process for certain programs.

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OK, I'm going to talk to you a little bit about the ABC method.

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So ABC is all about giving examples context, and building a very good example into a great example when articulating it in your personal statement. So as it says on the screen there, saying what you've done is not enough, you need to show evidence, you need to build on it, give it some context. Give it some substance.

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So, in terms of the ABC, the A stands for the Activity, and that basically is saying what you've done.

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B is the benefit. So, it's not just saying what you've done. It's then building on that to say what you've learned from it. The skills you've acquired, the skills you've developed.

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Then, finally, C is the course. So, how does it relate to the course that you're applying to? How is it going to help you succeed at university?

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How is that activity and benefit relevant to the degree program you are actually applying to?

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So the ABC Method can be used to actually pinpoint and highlight skills that are really relevant and important for your application, in order to put you in the best light possible to be considered for a degree program.

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And I'll give you an example now using the ABC Method.

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So, the example that we're using in this occasion, is the activity will be, 'I work part-time in a clothes shop where

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I serve customers and order stock.' So the benefit to that is 'able to manage time well, good communication skills, and taking on different levels of responsibility.'

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So we've got the good example, the good benefit.

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And how that relates to the course: being able to manage my time and workload successfully for the English and drama degree that I'm applying for.

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So again, it's giving that context.

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It's not just saying what you've done, it's actually explaining what you've benefited from it, and how that's going to be applicable

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When you actually go to university. We've all got transferable skills, and I've listed some on the screen there. Please have a look over that.

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What it's about is going through your volunteering experience, your work experience. Examples of the skills that you've used in academia, when you've been part of clubs and societies at school. Are you using skills on a daily basis, in your schools or colleges, projects and work, et cetera?

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And it's about selecting the skills that you're using, extracting them, and putting them through the ABC method. Giving them context, giving them substance. We've all got skills. And it's about articulating that in the statement, making them relevant, showcasing who you are as a student to the admission tutors who are reading your applications.

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So we've all got these examples.

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You've got to find out which ones are relevant to you

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But also relevant to the course you are applying to.

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What we would normally do if we were on campus for a session like this today, I would hand you all a leaflet. There's an activity on that for the ABC method.

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So you can go through, and start thinking of examples for yourself.

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My colleague, Rebecca, will now add that to the chat, a PDF version, which you can go away and download.

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So please take that link.

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So you can take that away today and then you can start looking at examples that you're using for the ABC Method.

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And that ABC Method can be used right the way through the application process. And when it comes to your personal statement,

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We recommend that you structure it in these five different parts, and obviously then you would use the ABC Method to articulate examples in the actual application itself.

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So, in terms of the structure, and again, on the handout, which has been added to the chat, you'll be able to go through the space on there where you can actually look through this structure, and you can start to add examples of what you would want to include in your own personal statements.

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So, in terms of the introduction, as I mentioned, this will be the easy part: it is why you want to study the course. What is your desire for that particular program? What is your motivation and your enthusiasm to study that program at university level?

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The main part of the statement will then be made up of the skills that you've got, the academic skills. What further reading have you done?

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What additional work have you done around that subject? What skills have you got that are irrelevant to the degree program?

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And, again, using the ABC Method, but particularly relating it to how it is relevant to the course. Using course profiles, showing that you've done that level of research, will actually put you in a really good light when it comes to admissions tutors reading your application.

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The next section will be work experience of volunteer work, or part-time work that you've done.

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Again, it's not just saying what you've done, it is about actually pinpointing the skills that you've used in these scenarios, and attributing them to how they're going to help you in the degree program itself.

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Likewise, any extracurricular activities that you've done?

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Further qualifications, the EPQ, for example.

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Showing how you relax, you unwind, coping mechanisms to stress. Not just saying that you enjoy doing certain activities.

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Exercise is an example, saying how it helps you when it comes to actually preparing yourself to carry on with your academic studies, et cetera. How it refreshes you and enables you to cope well with stress.

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Then summing it up with a really strong conclusion. It doesn't have to be a long conclusion. It can just be a line or two, but summing up all those four parts above with a strong conclusion is really important.

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I always use an example here: think of times when you maybe read a book or watched a film.

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You've enjoyed it, but the very end, it's a little bit disappointing. And that's what you sometimes take away. And that's what I take away when I watch a film or read a book that I've enjoyed, and it's not very good at the end. That's what sticks for me. All the good things that go before it,

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I put on the side really. The disappointing ending is what's in the front of my mind. So it's the same principle here with a personal statement. Your admissions tutors maybe read, as I mentioned, 300 or 400 different applications.

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You don't want to have them walking away from your application

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With something which is a little bit disappointing in mind. So a really strong conclusion to sum up why you are the ideal student for that particular degree program.

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So in terms of what makes a good personal statement. We've talked about a strong introduction and conclusion. Making sure that you've got that passion

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Coming through the application right from the beginning. And you're sort of building on that throughout the application, throughout the personal statement, but making it original, making it interesting, enthusiastic; use varied sentence structures.

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And it's really important to organize your content as well. What you'll find when you actually start doing your personal statements is, to begin with, you're probably well over the word count and the line count.

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That's absolutely fine. It's about putting everything down that you think is important. And then it's about drafting. Going over it, drafting and redrafting, getting people to look at it - family, friends, advisors. So, then you can edit it down

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So that it's a real, cohesive, flowing, structured personal statement.

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So make sure it's organized. Be selective – don't waffle. Make it relevant, as we have sort of been talking about all the way through the presentation.

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In terms of quotations, this one really is up to you.

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If you think that quotations will lift your application, and it's going to add something, then it's absolutely fine to use them. But if you are going to use quotations, you just have to ask yourself, is it important? Is this going to actually add anything to the statement itself?

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And if you do use quotations, please, please, please make sure that you reference them properly, because you don't want it to be flagged as a plagiarized application. And I'll talk to you about plagiarism in applications in a few slides time.

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So we've talked about relevance, as well, and we've said earlier that it's about applying for the course, and not the career.

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The clue is in the name, as it says there on the screen.

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The personal statement is personal to you, and it's about articulating your desires and motivations for studying that degree program. It is also about highlighting what makes you the perfect student to study the degree program at university.

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So I won't read all of these out.

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These are some of the most overused opening sentences. So we talked about making it varied.

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And making a strong introduction as well.

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These are some of the most over-used opening sentences in personal statements.

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So I'll just leave it on the screen just for a second, for you to have a read-over. I won't read them all out, but these are some of the things you probably want to avoid when it comes to actually putting a statement together.

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And likewise, this.

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Here are some examples of what not to do

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For personal statements. I'm not going to go through them all, I'll pick a couple out.

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We have another slide of examples, as well. So I'll pick a couple out from that.

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The first example I look at is, 'ever since I watched Shaun the Sheep on CBBC, I've been passionate about becoming a farmer. For me, nothing in life will be as good as a farmer's life.'

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That type of example doesn't add anything to your application. It doesn't show us anything, it is completely irrelevant. So you need to make sure that you're not including examples like that, that have no relevance to the application you're applying to. The next one I'll pick out from this is, 'I'm well respected by my classmates at school. I hold the position of head bog and it's a post I'm performing well in.'

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A personal statement is your opportunity to demonstrate your written communication skills. So it's vital that it is written in good English.

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So making sure that you're doing spelling and grammar checks, making sure that you haven't got any typos, is so key. Because if it comes across that we are noticing grammatical errors, spelling errors,

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It really then starts to question the academic skill, when you are actually putting that and personal statement together.

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So it's an opportunity to actually highlight your written communication skills within the personal statement. So make sure that you already know that you are reading over, and that you are getting people to proofread on your behalf.

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And another couple of examples. So 'I'm hoping to pass my driving test so I can drive to the University of Manchester every day.'

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The big mistake, first and foremost, is you are actually referencing a university itself. So you are alienating lots of other universities that you could be applying to.

33:51

Because they will think that this student has a preference to go to the University of Manchester in this instance. But also as well, like with the Shaun the Sheep one, nobody wants to know that you want to drive to university every day. It's an irrelevant example to use, and it doesn't add anything to your personal statement.

34:11

The next example I use is, 'I have a black belt in karate and enjoy martial arts.'

34:17

That on its own, doesn't really give us anything.

34:20

If you're using the ABC Method, that is just the activity, but there's an opportunity there to build on that example and make it into something which could become relevant.

34:31

So, tell us about your black belt and martial arts, what skills you use, and how this helps you, and how could that potentially help you in a degree program?

34:40

So, it's really important to pick out skills and add context and add substance to it, to make it relevant.

34:48

That example on its own isn't relevant, but there's opportunity there for you to actually make that into a fairly good example.

34:59

So, I mentioned about quotations and the link there to plagiarism. So I'll just give you a bit of context about plagiarism as well – it is something which doesn't come up very much, but it is important that you know about it.

35:13

So this is looking at one particular UCAS cycle. 234 personal statements had this

35:20

Same section, same extract, featured in personal statements. So 'ever since I accidentally burnt holes in my pyjamas after experimenting with a Chemistry set on my eighth birthday, I've always had a passion for Science.' That came up exactly

35:36

How it is written on the screen there, in 234 personal statements.

35:43

So personal statements are checked against 1.5million statements past and present on websites, books, journals. And UCAS has a copy-catch system. A UCAS similarity detection service. So it is looking for patterns. And it is looking for similar extracts or the same text extracts

36:02

In statements. It is a very low percentage of applications that are identified as fraudulent, as you can see there, it's just 1%. And it was one year where it was just shy of eight and a half thousand applications were flagged by this copy-catch system.

36:19

If your statement is flagged, you'll put your application at risk. But it is something that you need to be aware of, and you need to take seriously.

36:31

So again, when I was working at the Admissions School at the School of Computer Science, we had three applications, one year, that actually got flagged by this system.

36:41

The approach that we took, we contacted the students and asked them to actually just submit a new personal statement. But there'll be some departments, some schools, some universities that will just outright decline an application if it gets flagged by this system. So it's really important if you are using quotes, for instance, quotations, that you're referencing them properly. So it doesn't get flagged by this copy-catch system.

37:04

I don't think I need to add too much more to that. It's just something for you to be aware of.

37:08

Because it's probably one of the worst ways to be declined and be unsuccessful in an application due to plagiarism.

37:20

So I'm coming close to the end of the presentation now.

37:24

So I'm just going to give you a little bit of information about references and other things you need to consider when it comes to making your application.

37:35

So as I mentioned, at the very beginning of this session, it is really important

37:41

That communication between you and your referee is very clear. And that they are so aware of your motivation and your desire to actually study the particular degree program you're applying to. They need to be aware of this enthusiasm, and they need to be aware of what you're studying and

37:57

Why you want to go and study your degree program, for example, at the level that you're looking to

38:05

Study it.

38:07

But if you do have any mitigating circumstances, if you have had any difficulties throughout the year, they need to be aware of that as well, simply so they can back up what you're saying in your statement, in the reference.

38:20

So they need to be aware of any mitigating circumstances.

38:21

And they need to be aware of that passion and enthusiasm, and what you're doing in terms of academia, extracurricular activities, et cetera, that are going to help you on this degree program. So, again, they can back you up in a positive way in what they are writing in terms of your reference.

38:38

Just a note at the bottom there: teachers do like to be positive. But they also have a duty to you and your university choice to be realistic as well.

38:44

So it's about making sure that you are researching your applications, researching the courses you're applying to, and making sure that, for instance, you have the right prerequisites when it comes to subjects.

38:54

So if you're applying for Computer Science, for example, then you need an A level in maths. Make sure you've done that research, so your application is relevant to the department you're applying to.

39:09

So, things to know: we've talked a lot about research and applications, so make sure that you are sure you're all going to go away after this and be looking on course profiles, checking out different universities, comparing different entry requirements, and teaching methods, et cetera, from different institutes.

39:26

Set yourself some clear, realistic goals. Make sure that your referee is aware of your passion and motivation for a particular degree program as well.

39:35

As we mentioned at the very beginning, make sure you're meeting deadlines, and keeping your application accurate, relevant, and applicable to the degree program you're applying to.

39:45

Also be available on results day. Seriously.

39:48

If universities need to speak to you for whatever reason, or if you've narrowly missed out on your application, and you need to speak with someone at the University. It's so much easier when they can actually speak to you directly. So making sure that you are available on results day, just in case

40:04

You need to contact the university, it'll make everything so much easier.

40:15

A little bit more information about our Manchester live webinars.

40:21

So you can find out lots of information about the student experience, accommodation, student finance, applications, UCAS applications, et cetera. So where you booked this session, on the Manchester Live website, please keep checking back on there for more sessions that we have coming up.

40:37

Book on to as many as you'd like. There's also previous talks that you can watch on the Manchester Live website as well.

40:46

That's everything that I wanted to talk to you about today.

40:50

I am going to leave the chat, so I'm gonna mute myself, my microphone in a moment, but I'm gonna leave the chat open for the next 10 minutes. So if you do have any questions, feel free to submit them on the chat. My colleagues Rebecca, Nicole, and Maddy will all be happy to answer any questions that you've got. So anything that's come up throughout the session. Please do submit them via the chat.

41:14

But, if you are leaving now, thank you very much for listening. I'm sure you're going to go away now and watch the Southampton-Arsenal game. So hope you enjoy that.

41:23

But if you are remaining on the line, please feel free to add the chat

41:28

Any questions that you've got. Thank you very much. And I'm going to go on mute but the session will remain open for another 10 minutes. Thank you.