

Personal Statements

- A good personal statement is important – read the question properly and concentrate on providing details of what is being asked of you - Show commitment to returning home and demonstrate your potential to make a positive impact on the future of your home country.
- This is your opportunity to tell us exactly why you are applying, and why we should want you as a postgraduate student. What have you done in the way of relevant study or work experience to prove your ability and commitment to the course?
- Demonstrate that you have researched the course and the university. This is basic human psychology: you will make a more favourable impression if you have thought about what's being offered to you. Reflect upon your experience. How has it led you to the conclusion that this particular form of postgraduate study is right for you? Mention your long-term plans. What are your goals and how would the additional study help you?
- Try to use full titles. Do not use acronyms.
- Keep it positive - do not give your life story - do not exaggerate – do not ramble. Structure your points. Demonstrate why you will succeed on the course – rather than simply stating that you will.
- Proofread for errors (and get others to proofread it too) – a personal statement full of mistakes represents a sloppy attitude and a lack of attention to detail.
- In what way are you a critical thinker? All postgraduate courses require you to do more intensive research than is the case with a first degree. Which projects and activities have sharpened your ability to think freshly, creatively, spot what other people miss, set objectives and measure your results?
- The information you give to support your application should be carefully considered, presented effectively and entirely accurate.
- Take your time and give as much relevant information as possible, don't think 'one sentence will do' - we want to see a well completed statement giving reasons for applying and evidence in support of your application.