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Supporting students to write effective personal statements

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Quiz Time



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- How many personal statements are submitted to UCAS each year?

Around 500,000

- How many lines/characters are allowed?

4,000 characters or 47 lines of text, whichever comes first

- What have UCAS identified as the “most overused opening line”? Starter for 10...

“From a young age I have (always) been [interested in/fascinated by]...”

Overview

- Personal Statements- the basics
- Application Timeline
- Personal Statement structures
- Top Tips



UCAS

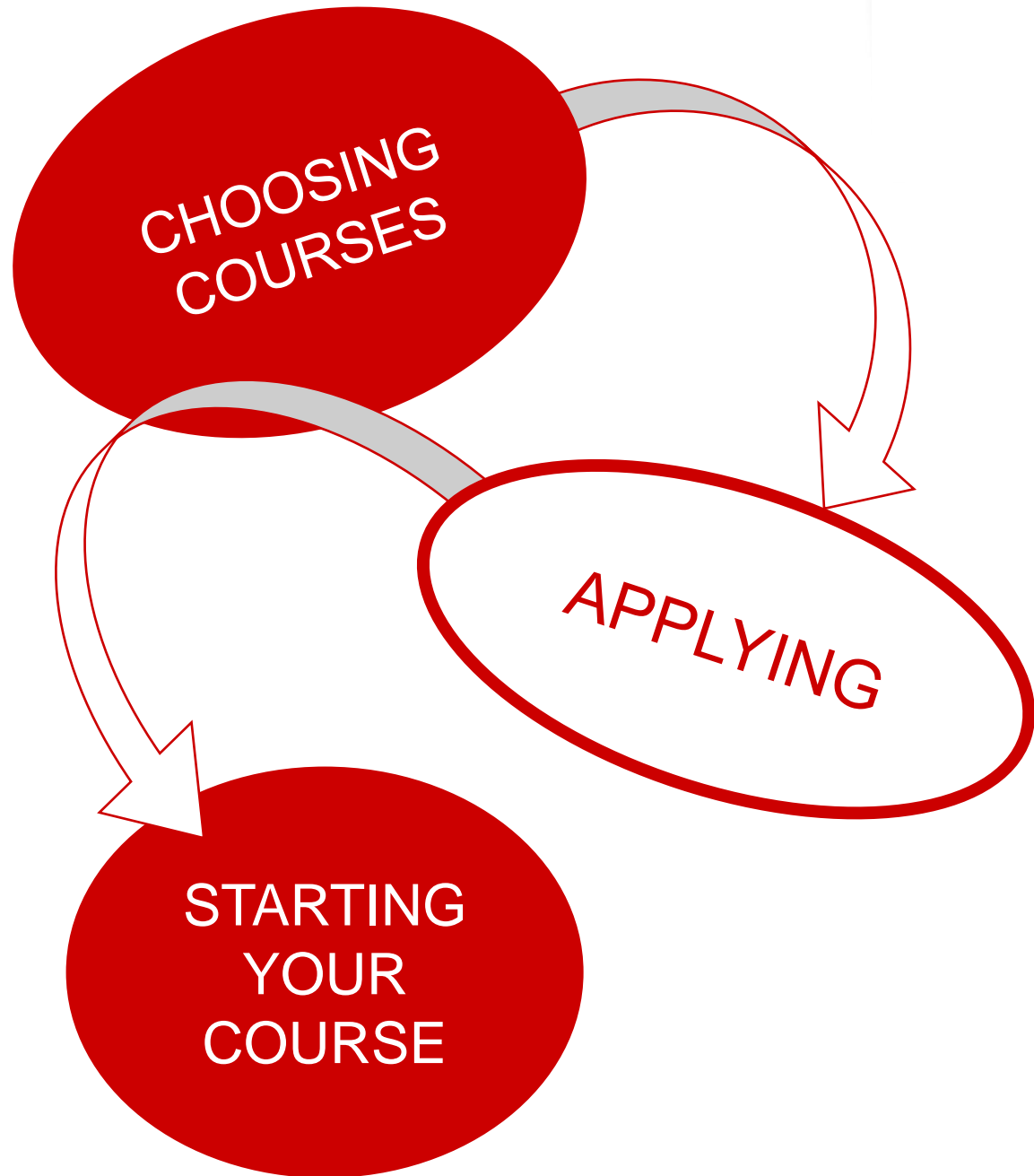
All applications to Higher
Education

1 application = 5 choices

The UCAS process

Three steps to applying

1. Choosing Courses
2. Applying
3. Starting Your Course





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Research

Research chosen course(s) and key skills required

University
prospectuses,
course
leaflets,
websites

Higher
Education
Exhibitions

Work
experience/
shadowing

Open Days

Careers
library

Email
universities

Choosing Courses

Questions that get students to reflect

- What subject area are you interested in?
- Look beyond the title – what does the course cover
- Core and optional modules
- Teaching style and assessment
- Additional opportunities – study abroad and internships
- Will your degree support your career aspiration?



Deadline Dates

Mid-June

- Applicants can register and start to complete their application

Mid-September

- Schools can start to submit completed applications to UCAS

15 October

- Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science/Med and Oxford OR Cambridge

25 January

- Application deadline for most courses

24 March

- Some Art & Design courses (check individual course for deadline)

30 June

- Applications after this date held for Clearing

The UCAS process

Personal details

Referee's statement

Student finance

Personal statement

Course choices

Qualifications



How do Universities use Personal Statements

- Understand the person applying
- See how much preparation they have done
- Helps to distinguish you from others with similar grades
- Determine the chance they have of succeeding on the course
- 47 Lines or 4000 characters so it must be well written and concise



Group Task-
Personal Statement reflection

How could this personal statement be improved? What advice would you give the student who wrote it?

Structure

1) Beginning

2) Middle

3) End



Beginning

- Why are you applying
Personal and practical skills
- Do your studies relate
Prove your enthusiasm
- Why are you interested
Show your passion
- Why will you be great
Unique picture of you



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Structuring your statement



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Five Cliché Statement Beginnings to Avoid

Every year UCAS publishes a list of the most common opening lines in personal statements, and urges applicants to avoid using these openings . Previous years' top five included:

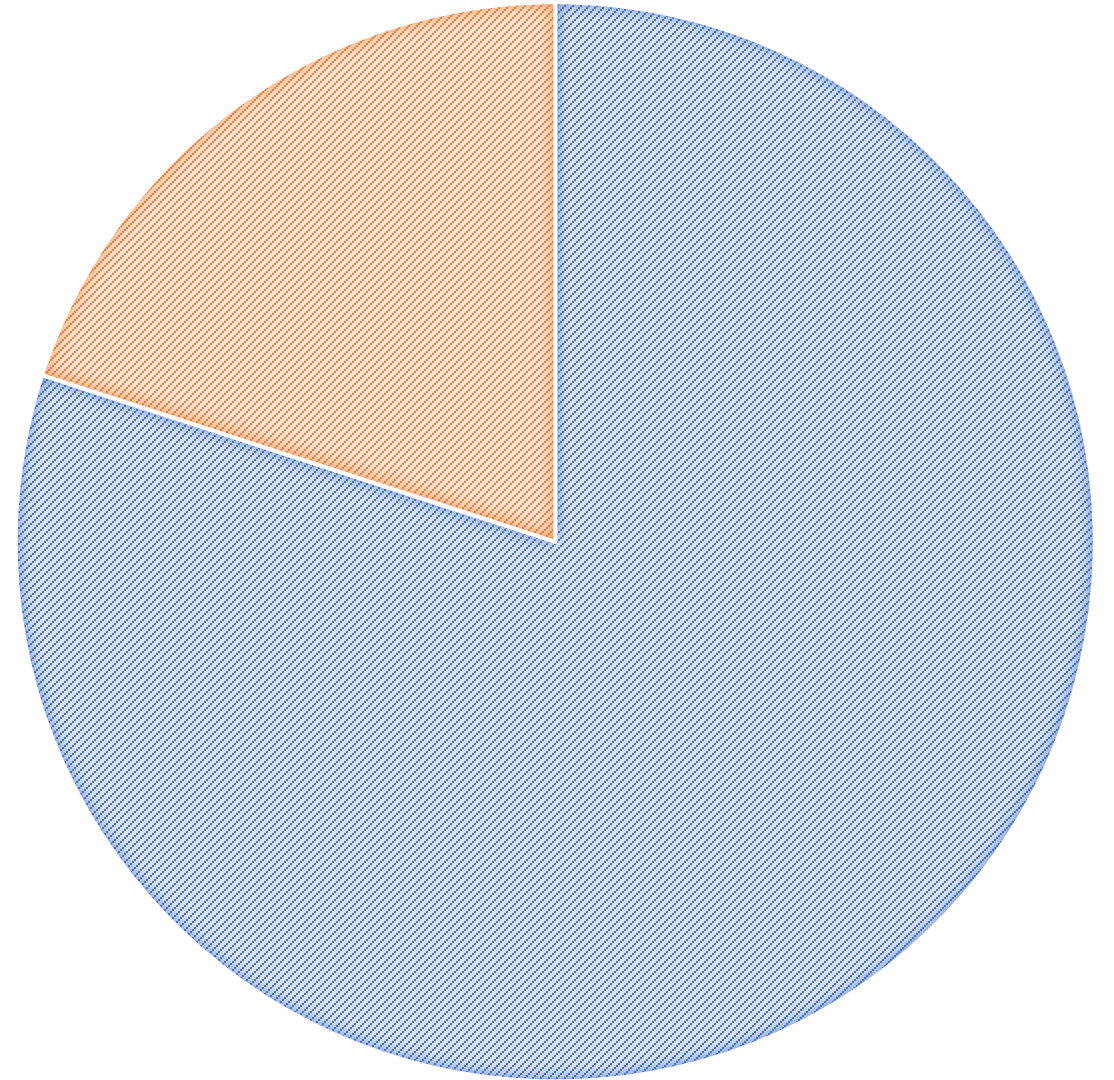
1. 'From a young age...'
2. 'For as long as I can remember...'
3. 'I am applying for this course because...'
4. 'I have always been interested in...'
5. 'Throughout my life I have always enjoyed...'

Middle

Your Skills and Understanding

- Work experience or Voluntary experiences
- Any non-accredited skills or achievements you have gained or online courses you have done
- Any Careers Aspirations

Make Personal Statements 70-80%
academic and course related information



End

What makes you unique?

- Hobbies
- Extra curricular activities

Closing paragraph



Questions to get Students writing

- Why have you chosen this course, what excites you about it?
- Is my previous or current study relevant to the course?
- Have you got any work experience that might help you?
- What life experiences have you had that you could talk about?
- What achievements are you proud of?
- What skills do you have that make you perfect for the course?
- What plans and ambitions do you have for your future career?



Why It Is Important To Proof Read

Can you spot the mistakes below?

Can yuo raed tihs sentnece?

What about these one?



[← Back](#)



BSc | Undergraduate

Professional Nursing (Adult)

Entry year

Academic Year 2023/24

Entry requirements

BCC/BBC

Duration

3 calendar years (Full Time)

UCAS code

B740

[Apply via UCAS](#)

[Overview](#)

[Course content](#)

[Entry Requirements](#)

[Careers](#)

[Fees and Funding](#)

[Apply](#)

[Register your interest](#)

3. Offers are made on the basis of ranked interview scores and are subject to satisfactory Occupational Health Assessment and Criminal Record check(s), in addition to any academic requirements. More detail can be found on the School's website.

Selection Criteria

In addition, to the entrance requirements above, it is essential that you read our guidance below on 'How we choose our students' prior to submitting your UCAS application.

[Download "How we choose our students" PDF](#)

International Students

Our country/region pages include information on entry requirements, tuition fees, scholarships, student profiles, upcoming events and contacts for your country/region. Use the dropdown list below for specific information for

Hints and Tips: do

- Mention responsibility and skills with examples of duties undertaken
- Be clear – admissions staff don't have time to read between the lines
- Be reflective – rather than 'I like sport' explain why and what skills it gives them
- Mention authors/ writers/ artists when talking about specific research
- Put things in the order of importance
- Spell check and read through with teachers/ parents

Hints and Tips: don't

- Mention a specific institution unless they're only applying to one
- Encourage your students to express themselves, avoiding clichés and quotes from other people
- Talk about the content of their A-Level courses in detail
- Be negative
- Make sure the student is telling the truth. This is their formal application and will form part of their contract with the university
- **Plagiarise** – UCAS will know

Questions?



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