

SO YOU WANT TO BE A VET?



Personal Statement

The Personal Statement is seen as the most important part of your UCAS application form, so you should take it very seriously. It is an opportunity for you to make an impression and distinguish yourself from the other applicants.

General Advice

- You can submit your personal statement online, but make sure you prepare it offline using Word.
- You can enter up to 4,000 characters, including spaces (up to 47 lines of text).
- When you save the text, the system will automatically tell you how many characters you have left.
- Only write things that you are prepared to talk about at an interview.
- Don't repeat material already on the application form.
- You need to sell yourself. Admissions tutors are looking for well-rounded individuals, people with a real interest and motivation in the course they are applying for.
- Once you have completed your statement, show it to someone who knows you well and let a tutor see it too.

The structure of your personal statement

It's a good idea to think about your personal statement in terms of the following sections:

- What you want to study at university and why
- How your qualifications relate to your chosen course
- Experiences that show you are a reliable and responsible person
- Your interests and skills

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Worksheet for writing a personal statement

What you want to study at university and why

It is important to explain your reasons for choosing a course. Try to answer these questions:

Why do you want to study veterinary medicine – where did your interest in this area come from?

Which aspects of (animal) science are of particular interest to you and why?

Which subjects are you looking forward to studying further at veterinary college and why?

How has work experience helped you to decide on a career in veterinary medicine?

Where do you hope a degree in veterinary medicine will lead? i.e your career aspirations

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How your current qualifications relate to your chosen degree

How do the subjects you are currently studying prepare you for studying veterinary medicine?

Is there any aspect of the course that you have a particular interest in? (Did you enjoy doing a particular piece of course work or project?)

Experiences that show you are reliable and responsible

Do you have a part-time job, or have you been involved in any charity or community work?

Have you helped with college/community events or open days?

Have you gained any awards or been on any relevant events, for example, Duke of Edinburgh?

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Are you finding it difficult to think of the skills and qualities that you have? Look at these attributes and skills.

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Practical | Problem solving | Caring | Enthusiastic |
| Teamwork | Good communicator | Using own initiative | Work under pressure |
| Self motivated | Working to deadlines | Organisation | Leadership |
| Self-expression | Scientifically literate | Artistic/ creative | Individual thought/ ideas |

Try to find some evidence for some of the skills and qualities. Don't worry if you don't have them all, three or four with plenty of evidence will be a good start.

| Skill or attribute | Evidence |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <i>e.g. Good communicator</i> | <i>Working in a café, I have to communicate effectively with the general public. Even at very busy times and when under pressure I have to remain calm and professional with customers.</i> |
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Writing about your hobbies and interests

Take a sentence or two to outline some details of your hobbies/ interests and then say why it is relevant to your application.

| Interest/hobby | Outline | Relevance |
|------------------------|---|---|
| <i>e.g. Travelling</i> | <i>Variety of locations including India</i> | <i>Met wide range of people, learnt about different traditions and cultures</i> |
| | | |
| | | |

Making your personal statement flow

Don't start every sentence with 'I' try to use a variety of language.

Instead of; "I have worked part time..." Try starting with; "My part time work as...."

Other useful phrases are:

| | |
|---|---|
| Helped me to... An opportunity to... Having undertaken... Enabled me to... As well as | Gained insight into... Provided me with... Developed... Taking part in... Not to mention... |
|---|---|

Now get writing and don't forget to check your grammar, punctuation and spelling!