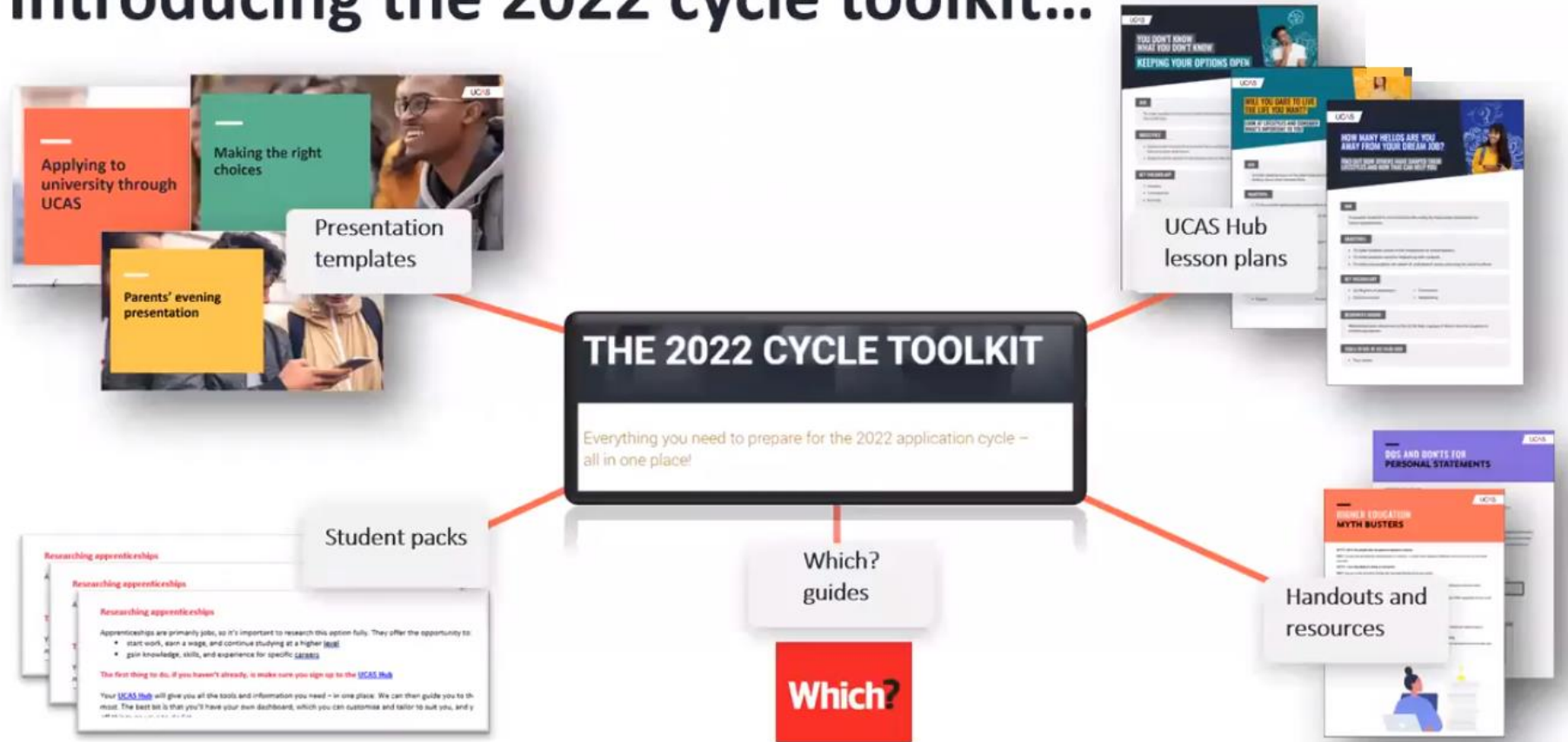


APPLYING TO UNIVERSITY

<https://www.ucas.com/advisers/toolkits/2022-cycle-toolkit>

Introducing the 2022 cycle toolkit...



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<https://www.ucas.com/advisers/toolkits/2022-cycle-toolkit>

The 2022 application cycle

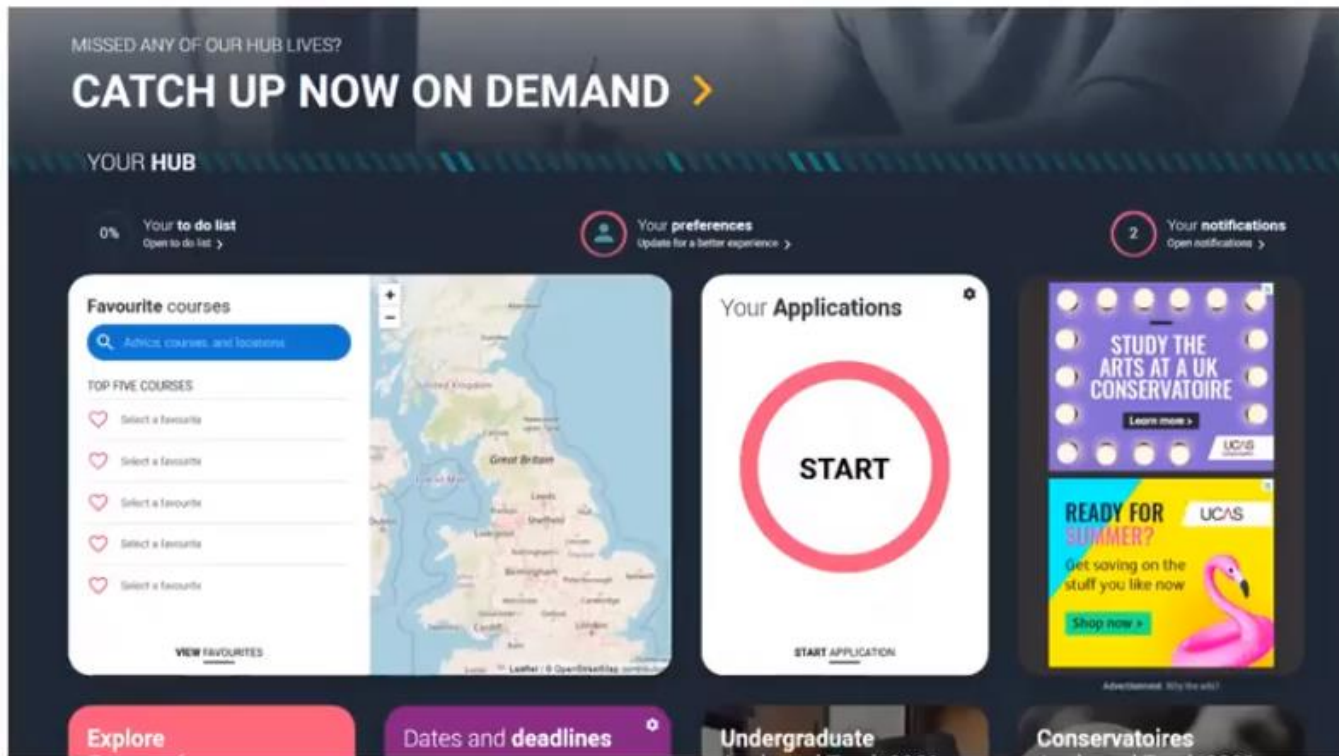


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<https://www.ucas.com/advisers/toolkits/2022-cycle-toolkit>

UCAS Hub & linking to a centre



Enter the Buzzword from your school, college, or centre

Your buzzword is for

UCAS, CHELTENHAM
ROSEHILL, NEW BARN LANE, CHELTENHAM,
GL52 3LZ

Is this correct?

Yes

No

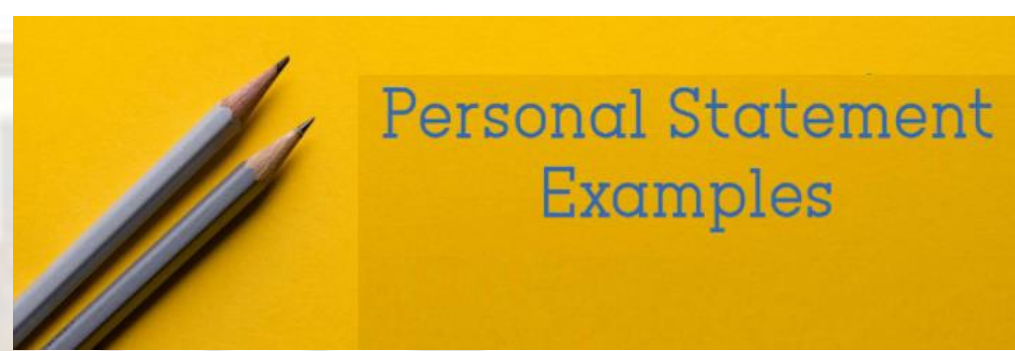
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SIXTH FORM NEWS:
WRITING PERSONAL STATEMENTS

**PERSONAL
STATEMENTS**

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Writing your Personal Statement



A great Personal Statement should cover the following three sections:

- Why do you want to study this subject?
- What have you done in the past that makes you particularly suitable to study the subject?
- What else have you done that would contribute to the university community?

The following sheet will help to guide you plus all of the incredibly useful links!

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Writing your Personal Statement

HOW TO WRITE A
WINNING UCAS
PERSONAL STATEMENT

CHOSEN COURSE

Where does your interest come from?

Relevant interests/experience (how has this influenced your choice)

Career goal

SUBJECTS

How do they relate to your chosen course?

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Consider the skills that will help you in the future

HOBBIES & INTERESTS

What skills and qualities have you gained

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Writing your Personal Statement: Introduction

I view literature as a gold mine of varying interpretations. It is the opportunity to delve into texts and uncover more profound meanings - be it, the potential significance of a seemingly unimportant ellipses or pronoun - that particularly excites me. The first time I remember feeling truly enthused by this explorational approach to literature was upon analysing Jane Weir's 'Poppies' as part of the GCSE English course. I also value the recreational aspects of reading; novels such as George Orwell's '1984' has allowed me to disconnect from reality and become completely immersed in the emotions of characters and the wonders of fictional worlds. The power of fiction, as demonstrated by these authors, has inspired me to write my own novels and poetry. I believe telling stories is fundamentally important to society and how we connect, learn and better ourselves. I am equally intrigued by cinema and its ability to enhance and construct stories through elements of film form and have wanted to be a screenwriter since I was 10. Understanding the relation between these two media forms will bring me closer to this ambition.

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Writing your Personal Statement: Subjects

My fellow peers elected me as the editor of the school newsletter. Through this role, I am responsible for creating agendas, leading weekly meetings, setting deadlines, circulating important messages and overseeing editing. This experience has challenged me to be organised and adaptable and has illustrated to me the value of co-operation. I have learnt to be an effective leader, with the right balance of motivation, cordiality, respect and firmness. I am also involved with the English department through the Teachers for Tomorrow programme. I was also able to express this enthusiasm at my school's Year 11 open day when, as a volunteer, I represented the English department, encouraging students to take the A Level English literature course. However, my interest in the subject is not confined to school; in order to further my understanding of 'The Great Gatsby' (which I am studying at A Level), I decided to read 'Tender is the Night' - another of F. Scott Fitzgerald's works. Though I felt the latter to be the weaker novel of the two, I was intrigued by how closely its content mirrored the troubled private life of Fitzgerald and found this wider reading bettered my appreciation of his literary style and themes. As an aspiring screenwriter and an eager film studies student, I participated in an online screenwriting course with UEA in order to develop my understanding of the craft, having previously written scripts at home. I was particularly interested in the processes before reaching the script stage, such as beat sheets and treatments. I also create short holiday videos, editing footage together and overlaying music and foley sound. It is so thrilling to entertain people and see previously figmental ideas come to life.

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Writing your Personal Statement: Subjects

I was keen to ensure my other A-level subjects would supplement Geography. Biology promotes knowledge that is especially useful in my Physical Geography studies. For example, I found learning about biodiversity particularly intriguing; having a solid understanding of why biodiversity is crucial and the factors that put global biodiversity at risk helped in writing essays in Geography with a focus on large ecosystems, such as the Amazon Rainforest. Additionally, A-Level Maths equips me with knowledge which is instrumental in collecting and interpreting data in Geography. I am especially interested in statistics and (more specifically) the different statistical distributions and how they can be modelled to make sense of real-life issues. For example, I find the fact that the Poisson Distribution can be used to model the frequency of natural disasters absolutely fascinating.

My passion for using Geography to improve the state of the world led me to some engaging Ted Talks by Hans Rosling, a Professor of International Health. I realised how fragmented our perception of the world is after watching his Ted Talk entitled: 'How Not to Be Ignorant About the World', so I then read his book 'Factfulness', which expanded on this. Rosling discusses his proposition of classing countries as level 1-4 instead of 'high-income' and 'low-income', as this gives us a divided mind-set, despite the majority of people living in middle-income countries; I found it astonishing that such an old-fashioned model is so widely used today. I was also shocked to discover how much the media prioritises shocking news stories, which distorts our social perception. I have chosen to further investigate influences on perception in my Geography NEA, where I am focusing on the surprisingly high poverty levels in the London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, contrasting with people's perceptions.

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Writing your Personal Statement: Subjects

Outside of education I have also shown an interest in business from a young age. In 2011 I took part in a focus group run by students at Cranfield University aiming to create a retail-based engineering business. The project was delivered to over 600 children by the students and received sponsorship from companies such as Vauxhall and the Royal Academy of Engineering. The opportunity to take part in this project was an invaluable experience and first sparked my interest in the world of business. More recently, in 2019, I was lucky enough to be able to attend the EUSPEN business conference in Venice. During the conference I attended witness lectures and interacted with many representatives from companies across Europe. This experience proved incredibly useful as I was thrown into a professional environment and it also inspired me further pursue business.

As a result of my experiences above, I then decided to create my own small business based around watch making. I therefore registered a company called MakinTime Ltd. As a director of the company, I have been directly involved in making an application to Innovate UK to support necessary start up activities and expenses. Although the application did not ultimately prove successful, the process as a whole was excellent 'hands on' experience and the feedback we received will no doubt be beneficial in future if I do choose to apply again.

I am also currently working as a retail assistant and am in the process of applying for the role of weekend supervisor. Although this isn't something that I would like to continue with in longer term, the role has developed my interpersonal skills which I believe would be practical for both university life and a future career in business. For example, I believe that my confidence and communication skills have improved drastically. I believe such soft skills to be vital in order to get the most out of my degree. Besides academic achievements and interests I am also interested in animal care. I have many different animals, mainly including reptiles, amphibians and fish. Recently I have been going to the gym on a regular basis, something which I would like to continue when doing my degree. I hope this will allow me to participate in a sports group or activity in which will help me to adapt to university life and meet new people.

PERSONAL STATEMENTS: ADVICE



Personal Statement Presentation video

<https://www.herts.ac.uk/about-us/school-and-college-liaison/getting-ready-for-university/personal-statements>

We suggest that students watch the Personal Statement Presentation video before Thursday, as this will help them think of ideas for the questions they want to ask.

Personal Statement template

https://www.herts.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0015/280113/personal_statement.pdf

Guide on 'How to gain experience for your Personal Statement during a Lockdown'

<https://www.herts.ac.uk/about-us/school-and-college-liaison/getting-ready-for-university/gaining-experience-during-a-lockdown>

For further HE resources please visit the Getting ready for University section of our website:

<https://www.herts.ac.uk/about-us/school-and-college-liaison/getting-ready-for-university>

University of Hertfordshire **UH**



PERSONAL STATEMENTS: ADVICE

Our Virtual Fair is designed to help you explore all your options from the safety of home. You'll be able to chat directly with **over 80 different universities and colleges**, ask questions, download prospectuses, and find out lots of information. We'll be joined by universities including Cambridge, Liverpool, Manchester Met, and Newcastle (to name just a few!). You can also view **10 live webinars** throughout the day on topics such as Choosing a University, Securing a Place through Clearing, and Writing your Personal Statement***.

Completely free of charge, and **open to pupils from Year 13, Year 12 and Year 11** (parents and teachers are very welcome too!).

We've got an incredible line-up of online events and resources for you next month, including a **spectacular Virtual Fair** with over 80 universities and colleges, and more of our **weekly Webinar Wednesdays** with experts from across the UK.

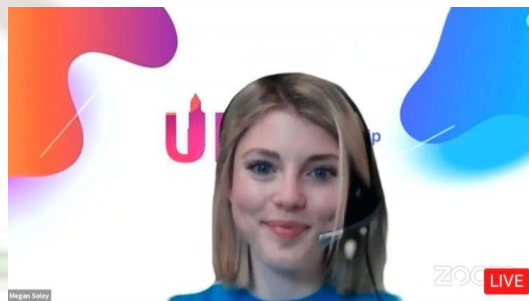
Webinar Wednesdays

From their launch in April, our Webinar Wednesdays have been incredibly successful, and we've helped provide thousands of students and teachers with advice and support.

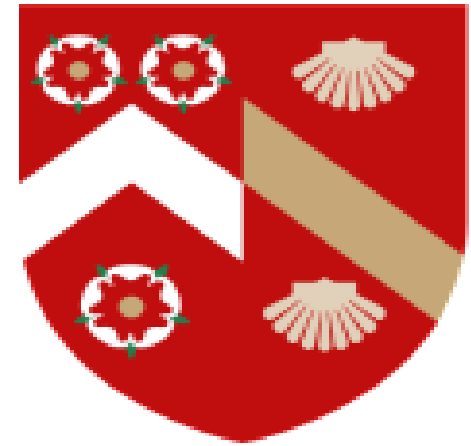
[Find out More + Sign Up!](#)

***<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=abzCaYZavRw>

<https://www.ukuniversitysearch.com/blog/post/webinar-wednesdays>



PERSONAL STATEMENTS: ADVICE



WADHAM
COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



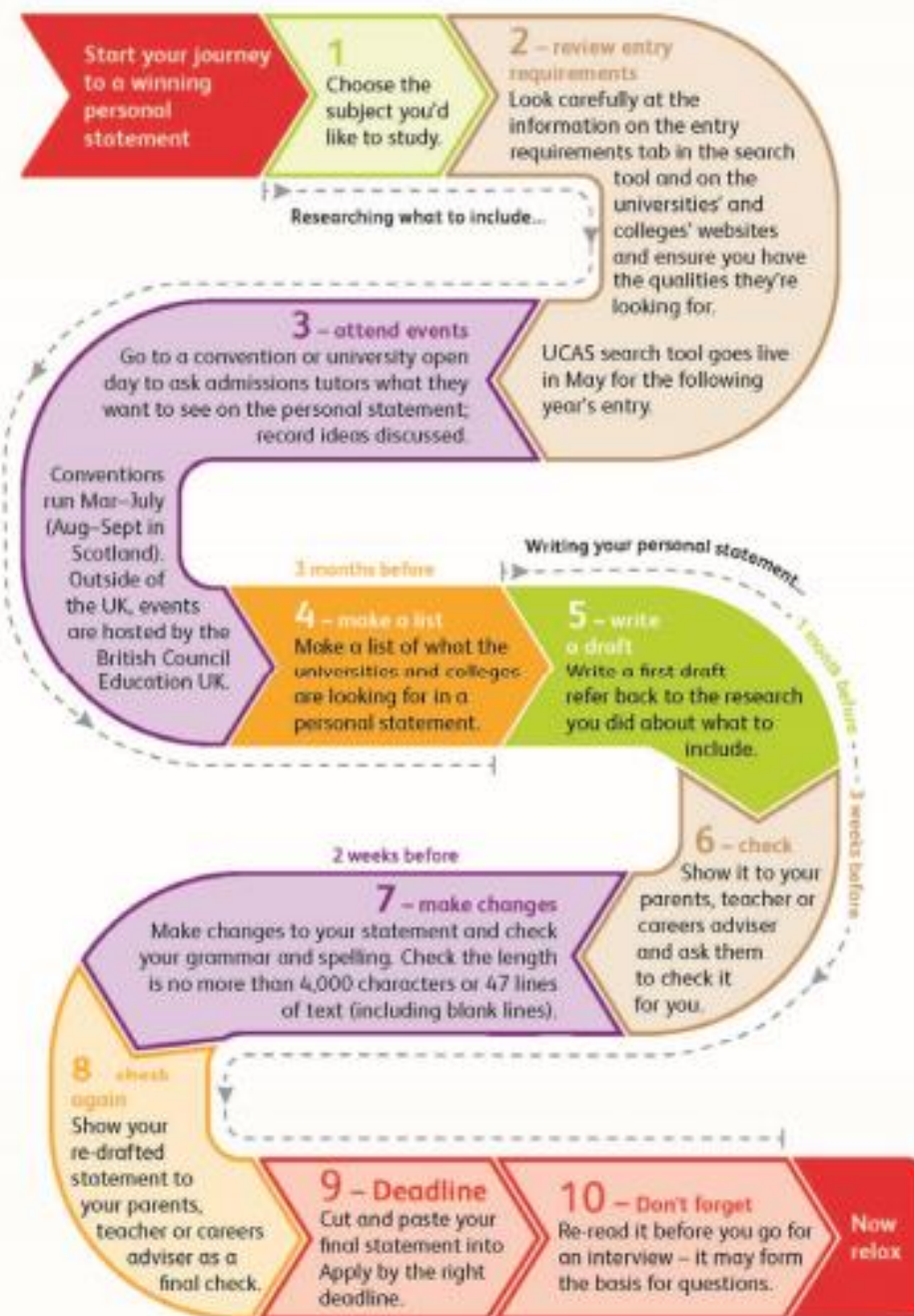
- 1. Year 12 Application Support:** We have uploaded sessions to support university applications including writing and editing personal statements with teacher lesson plans and personal statement examples. These resources along with others on admissions tests and interviews are accessible [here](#). There will also be versions of these available on [YouTube](#) delivered by the access team so pupils can access them in their own time.
- 2. Signposting:** There are lots of brilliant resources that pupils can access to extend their knowledge and skills provided by the university and others. We've collated some good resources to give pupils some ideas. We will be regularly updating these to keep it up to date. These suggestions can be found [here](#).
- 3. Wadham Resources:** We've also been developing our own resources to help pupils further their knowledge and skills. Keep an eye [here](#) as resources are added.

PERSONAL STATEMENTS: TIMELINES

Top tips for writing your personal statement:

- Do show you know your strengths, and outline your ideas clearly.
- Do be enthusiastic – if you show you're interested in the course, it may help you get a place.
- Do expect to produce several drafts of your personal statement before being totally happy with it.
- Do ask people you trust for their feedback
- Don't be tempted to buy or copy a personal statement, or share yours. All personal statements are checked for similarity – if your personal statement is flagged as similar to other applicants, it could affect your chances of being offered a place.
- Don't exaggerate – if you do, you may get caught out in an interview when asked to elaborate on an interesting achievement.
- Don't rely on a spellchecker, as it will not pick up everything – proofread as many times as possible.
- Don't leave it to the last minute – your statement will seem rushed, and important information could be left out.
- Don't let spelling and grammatical errors spoil your statement.

My personal statement timeline



PERSONAL STATEMENTS: GENERAL ADVICE

DOS

- > Do show you know your strengths and can outline your ideas clearly.
- > Do be enthusiastic – if you show you're interested in the course, it may help you get a place.
- > Do expect to produce several drafts of your personal statement before being totally happy with it.
- > Do ask people you trust for their feedback.

DON'TS

- > Don't exaggerate – if you do, you may get caught out in an interview when asked to elaborate on an interesting achievement.
- > Don't rely on a spellchecker, as it will not pick up everything – proofread your statement as many times as possible.
- > Don't leave it to the last minute – your statement will seem rushed, and important information could be left out.
- > Don't let spelling or grammatical errors spoil your statement.



REMEMBER

You can write up to 4,000 characters of text to show why you'd make a great student.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
visit ucas.com/personalstatement.

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PERSONAL STATEMENTS: ADVICE

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Renq_WM7mTk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLokG6bhPCw&t=142s>

There is also a copy of a video tutorial on the website which provides further guidance & should you have any further questions then come and talk to us!



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