



WHY IS A PERSONAL  
STATEMENT SO  
IMPORTANT?



KEEP CALM  
AND

WRITE YOUR

PERSONAL  
STATEMENT

# WHAT IS A PERSONAL STATEMENT?

- YOU WILL WRITE 4000 CHARACTERS OR 47 LINES THAT SHOW YOU'D MAKE A GREAT STUDENT.
- YOU ARE ABLE TO EXPLAIN WHAT MAKES YOU PERFECT FOR YOUR COURSE.
- THIS IS HOW UNIVERSITIES SELECT STUDENTS FOR INTERVIEW.
- SOME UNIVERSITIES DON'T INTERVIEW.

# IS IT REALLY A BIG DEAL?

**How do you decide what you're going to do after Dane Court?**

**How do you beat the competition? You're going up against 1000's of other students.**

**How are you going to make sure you get your first choice course?**



SO WHAT DO YOU  
NEED TO DO?

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/when-apply/writing-personal-statement>

UCAS

# WHERE DO I START?

- **Read course descriptions for the qualities, skills and experience needed for your subject.**
- **Read up and visit universities, try out taster days, and summer schools.**
- **For all the courses you will be applying for, you only write one personal.**



# WHAT TO WRITE ABOUT?

## 1. Why are you applying?

- your ambitions
- what interests you about the subject, course providers and higher education.

## 2. What makes you suitable

- any relevant skills, experience or achievements gained from education, work or other activities.

# THE IDEAL PERSONAL STATEMENT



- Clearly structured (think 'interview')
- Obvious subject focus (general & specific)
- Links current & future studies
- Evidences relevant skills & experiences
- Aim for 70 to 80% academic focus
- Full use of 'space' (but paragraphed)
- Error free
- Original (UCAS Similarity Detection Service)
- Enthusiasm; motivation; 'spark'



## What to avoid...

- Spelling, punctuation or grammatical errors
- Jargon, abbreviations or non-standard English
- Excessive use of quotations
- Rambling or repetition
- Irrelevancies
- Preference for one university
- Failure to make use of space
- Lying!

# YOU MIGHT BE THINKING....



## When do I start?

- ✓ Now!

## When do I need to have it finished?

- ✓ Oxford and Cambridge = 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 2015, 18:00 (UK time)
- ✓ Everyone else = 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015, 18:00 (UK time)

## Who will help me?

- ✓ Your mentor, your chosen subject teachers, Miss Hale and Mrs Razzaq, your family