

# 5 Tips for Outstanding Personal Statements

## 1. EXPLORE

Take the time to explore your options in relation to your skill set, interests, and aspirations. You need to know why you are choosing to pursue the degree and be confident in your ability to excel.

## 2. MAKE A DECISION

If you are unsure about your course choice, or you want to apply to two very different subject areas, this will be evident in your writing and dilute the strength of your personal statement. It might be challenging, but an informed decision will provide the foundations for you to excel.

## 3. KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE

Who is going to be reading your personal statement and what are their priorities? It is important to know the answers to these questions so that you can appeal to the decision-makers. Why should they offer you a place on the course? Admissions tutors may be your future lecturers, so they are keen to see if you have the potential to be a successful undergraduate on the specific course you are applying for.

## 4. PRIORITISE

You can't talk about every experience you have ever had. Be selective and prioritise the experiences that are relevant to your course choice. Think about what you have learned, the skills you have developed and how they will help you to succeed on the course you are applying for. We advise that students prioritise a paragraph, focused on a specific topic of interest, which demonstrates their ability to carry out independent research (focus, select, reflect!).

## 5. PROVIDE EVIDENCE

Depth is more important than breadth. If you do not provide the key details from your experiences, there will be no indication of what you have learned, or how you have developed as a result. Anyone can provide a list of activities; but active, engaged learners can discuss their experiences in detail, reflect on their learning outcomes and appeal to admissions staff!