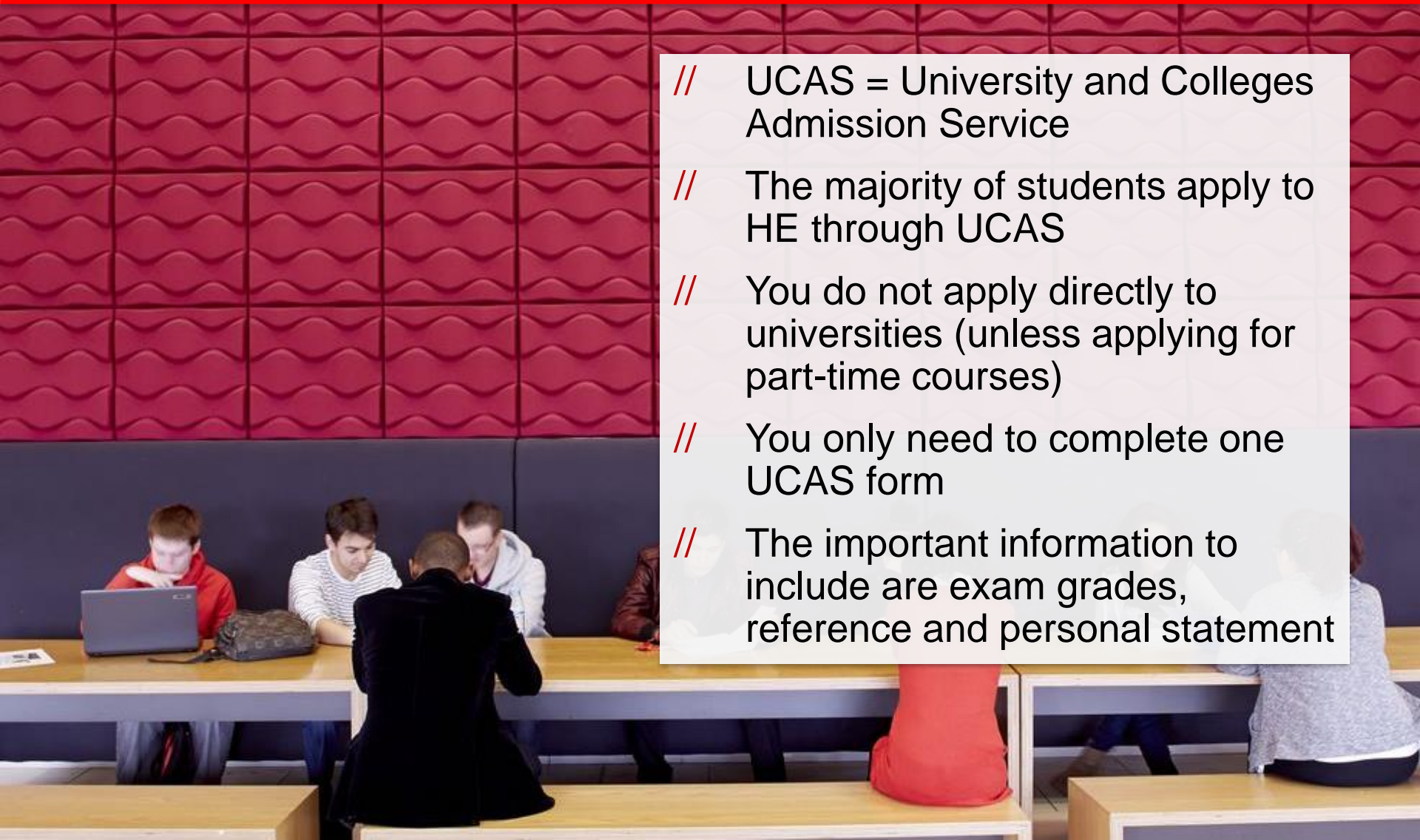


# Who are UCAS?

- // UCAS = University and Colleges Admission Service
- // The majority of students apply to HE through UCAS
- // You do not apply directly to universities (unless applying for part-time courses)
- // You only need to complete one UCAS form
- // The important information to include are exam grades, reference and personal statement



# The UCAS website...



University of Bedfordshire

**UCAS** At the heart of connecting people to higher education

Next event: **Humberside higher education conve...**  
Hull, 18 Jun 2015 - [More events](#)

Keyword search



After GCSEs

**Undergraduate**

Conservatoires

Teacher Training

Postgraduate

Not sure



Getting started

Find a course

Apply and Track

Finance and support

Not holding any offers? Extra is open – you might be able to add another choice

[Find out more](#)

## 1. Getting started

The undergraduate experience

Thinking about uni?

What to study

International and EU students

Information for parents

## 2. Find a course

How to choose between similar courses and unis

Browse through our search tool

Visit unis and colleges

## 3. Apply and Track

Filling in your application

Writing a personal statement

Interview invitations

Tracking your application

## 4. Finance and support

Tuition fees and student loans

Extra funding

Getting student support

Students' unions

## Key dates

25 JUN

**If you receive all decisions by 4 June, reply by 25 June**

25 Jun 2015

30 JUN

**Applications received after 30 June are entered into Clearing**

30 Jun 2015

2 JUL

**Last date to apply through Extra**

2 Jul 2015

## Upcoming events

18 JUN

**Humberside higher education convention**

18 Jun 2015

19 JUN

**Sheffield higher education convention**

19 Jun 2015

22 JUN

**Bedfordshire higher education convention**

22 Jun 2015

## UCAS blogs

**Think carefully when you reply to your offers**

3 Jun 2015

By UCAS in **UCAS advice**

Replying to your offers is a big decision and one you need to think about carefully. You could be spending at least the next three years of your life at whichever university you accept, so you should...

**Smoothies with a side of revision**

28 May 2015

16-18 Choices

**Undergraduate**

Conservatoires

Teacher Training

Postgraduate

[Getting started](#)

[Choosing a course](#)

[Apply and Track](#)

[Finance and support](#)

**⚠ UCAS Undergraduate Track availability: 23 – 25 October 2015 - Read more**

Home › UCAS › Undergraduate › Getting started › When to apply › Writing a personal statement

The undergraduate experience

Thinking about uni?

What to study

Distance learning and part-time study

Alternatives to higher education

Events and open days

**When to apply**

**Writing a personal statement**

Entry requirements

International and EU students

Mature students

Individual needs

Parents and guardians

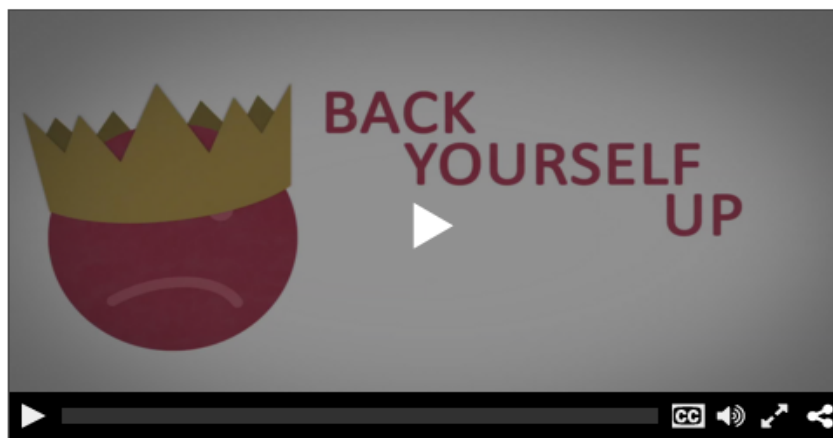
Astudio yn y Gymraeg

## Writing a personal statement

### Related content

Conservatoires: Writing a personal statement

Course **tutors read personal statements to compare different applicants** – so **this is where you should describe your ambitions, skills and experience that will make you suitable for the course.**



### Not sure how to start your personal statement?

Our video contains advice from an admissions tutor about how to plan, start, structure and end your personal statement.

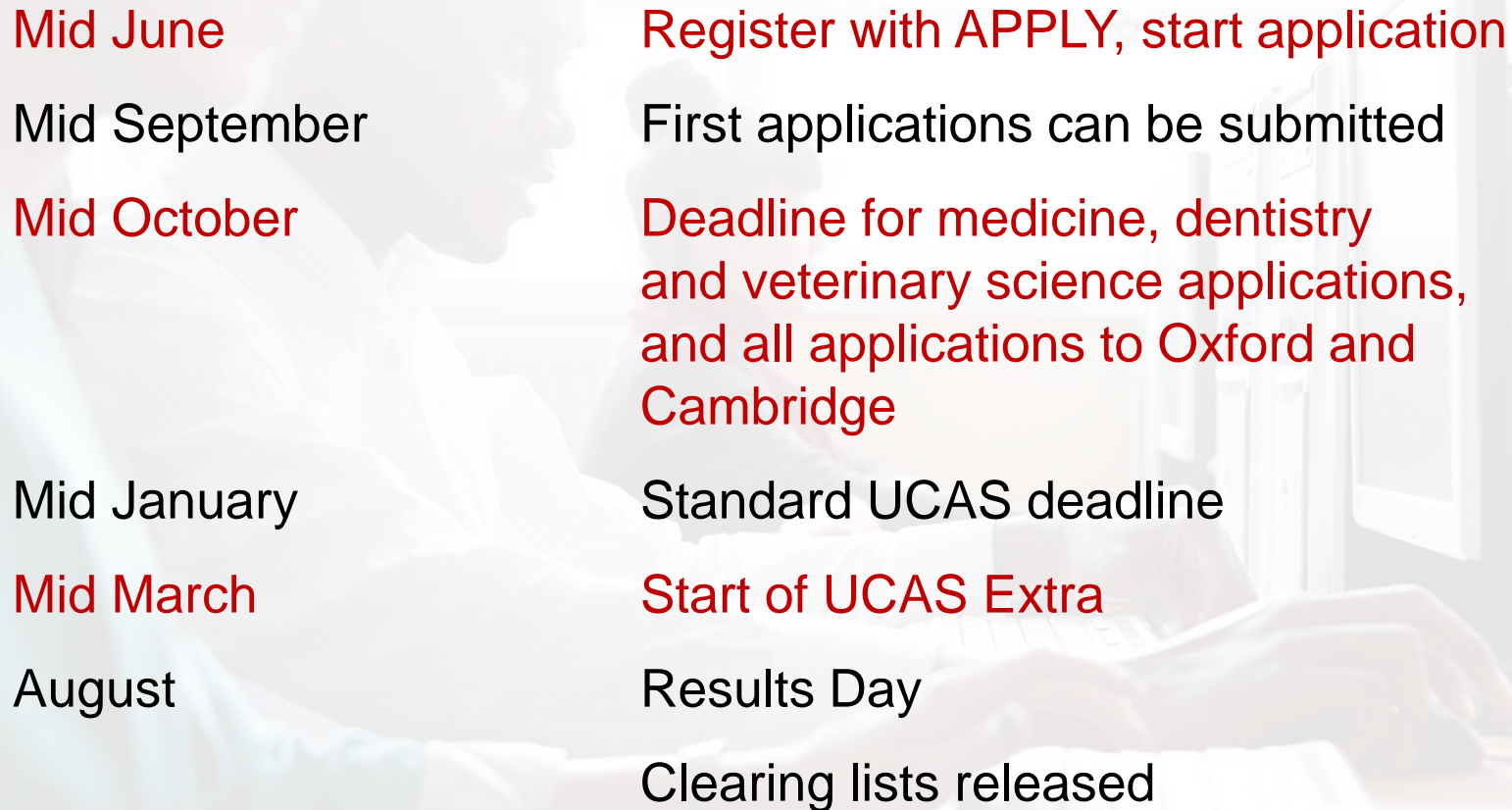
Starting your personal statement

> BSL starting your personal statement

[View more videos](#)



# The UCAS calendar

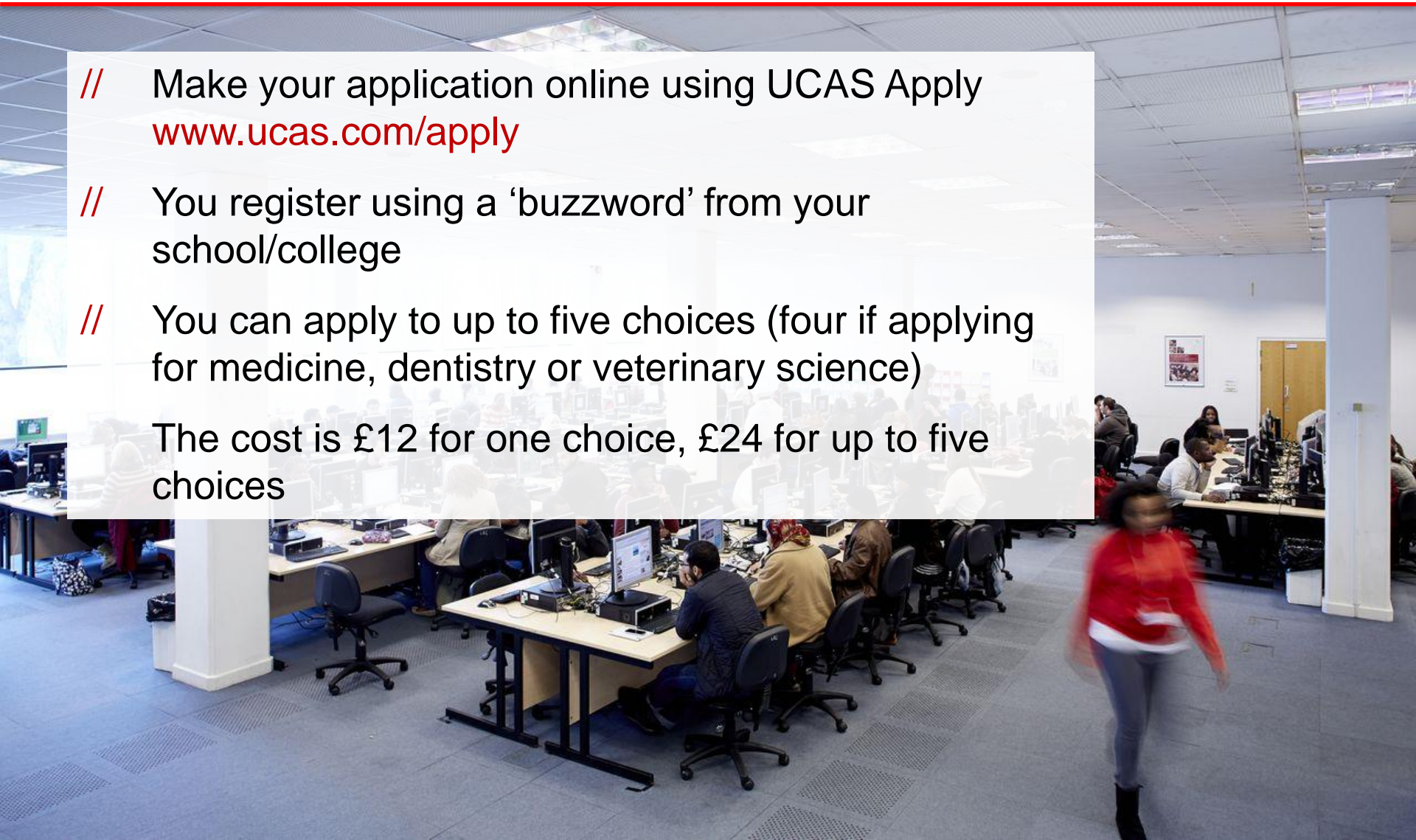


Mid June	Register with APPLY, start application
Mid September	First applications can be submitted
Mid October	Deadline for medicine, dentistry and veterinary science applications, and all applications to Oxford and Cambridge
Mid January	Standard UCAS deadline
Mid March	Start of UCAS Extra
August	Results Day Clearing lists released

# Starting your application

- // Make your application online using UCAS Apply [www.ucas.com/apply](http://www.ucas.com/apply)
- // You register using a 'buzzword' from your school/college
- // You can apply to up to five choices (four if applying for medicine, dentistry or veterinary science)

The cost is £12 for one choice, £24 for up to five choices





# Why are they so important?



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- // All Undergraduate students must fill out a UCAS application form online
- // Personal Statements are an essential part of the application process
- // Opportunity for you to demonstrate your enthusiasm to the universities and also your suitability for the course(s) that you hope to study
- // In many cases applicants are not interviewed
- // Admissions tutors may use this information in deciding to offer you a place over another student that has identical grades/experience

# Personal Statements

- // Be positive – make yourself stand out from other applicants
- // Be concise – do not repeat information which is elsewhere on the form
- // Spend time on getting it right!
- // Do not plagiarise
- // You can enter up to 4,000 characters (this includes spaces) or 47 lines of text (this includes blank lines), whichever comes first
- // Look on UCAS website
- // Ask for help from your School/College



# What should I cover?

- // Your reasons for choosing the course
- // Show why you would be suitable for the course – relevant research, skills and experience
- // Capability for higher level study – independence, motivation, academic ability...
- // Why you want to go to university?
- // Career aspirations, and why you would be suited to your chosen profession
- // Details of jobs, placements, work experience or voluntary work, particularly if its relevant to your chosen course(s)\_
- // Other interests, abilities and achievements – show that you are a ‘well-rounded’ person



# What not to include....

## **The ten most common opening lines used in personal statements:**

1. From a young age I have (always) been [interested in/fascinated by]... [1,779]
2. For as long as I can remember I have... [1,451]
3. I am applying for this course because... [1,370]
4. I have always been interested in... [927]
5. Throughout my life I have always enjoyed... [310]
6. Reflecting on my educational experiences... [257]
7. Nursing is a very challenging and demanding [career/profession/course]... [211]
8. Academically, I have always been... [168]
9. I have always wanted to pursue a career in... [160]
10. I have always been passionate about... [160]
  
11. Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world... [148]

# Applying for multiple courses

- // Remember that you only write one personal statement so it will be used for all your choices.
  - // If you are applying for a joint degree
  - // Explain why you are interested in both aspects of this joint program
  - // If you are applying for different subjects – So five different courses
- Identify the common themes and skills that are relevant to your choices

# Remember...

- // Why you have chosen the course(s)
- // The reasons why that subject area interests you
- // Evidence that you understand what is required to study the course
- // How your current or previous studies relate to the course(s) that you have chosen
- // Any activities that demonstrate your interest in the course(s)
- // Why you want to go to The University
- // Details of jobs, placements, work experience or voluntary work, particularly if its relevant to your chosen course(s)
- // Hobbies, interests and social activities that demonstrate your skills and abilities



# Hints & tips

- // Spelling, punctuation and grammar must be of a high standard
- // The statement should have a clear structure
- // Avoid the 'obvious statements' – “I read”, “I socialise with friends”...
- // Don't just list interests or activities
- // If applying for combined courses, make sure you address all subjects
- // Remember you only have one statement - it will be used for all your choices.

# Planning the content



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# Planning the content

## Personal statement worksheet

This worksheet is designed to help you think about information you could include in your personal statement. We've included space for you to write down any thoughts you have as you go along. More detailed advice and guidance about writing your personal statement, including our UCAStv video guide, is available at [www.ucas.com/personalstatement](http://www.ucas.com/personalstatement).

### Writing about the course

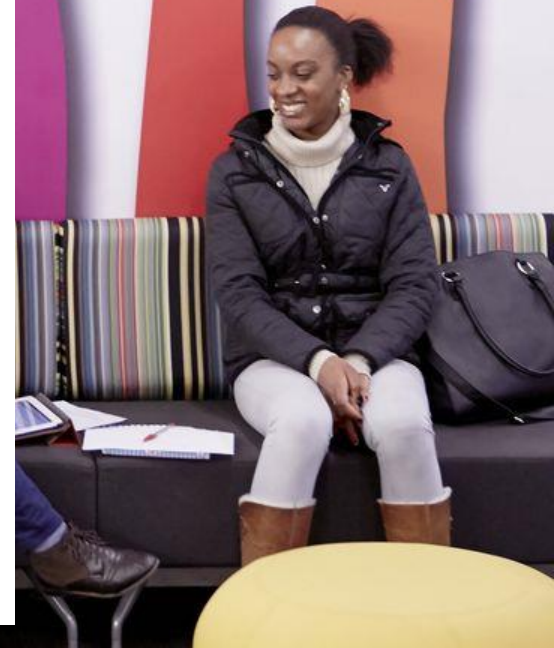
Why are you applying for your chosen course(s)?



Why does this subject interest you? Include evidence that you understand what's required to study the course, e.g. if applying for psychology courses, show that you know how scientific the subject is.



Why do you think you're suitable for the course(s)? Do you have any particular skills and experience that will help you to succeed on the course(s)?





# Plagiarism

- // Your personal statement is checked against 1,500,000 statements past and present, those on websites and in books
- // 30,000 students 'caught' in 2010
- // 10% were identical to other applications personal statements or online examples e.g student rooms
- // Universities applied to informed so they can take appropriate action
- // Students told by e-mail with details on track
- // Flagged up on advisor track for school staff as well