Completing Personal Statements

Careers Service

Trinity College Dublin
The Importance of Personal Statements

What is it?

– A written document outlining your motivation to apply and course suitability

Why have one?

– Chance to express individuality

– State academic/research interests

How important is it?

– Significant role in admission’s decision

– Can influence funding decision
Sample personal statement

“You must submit a personal statement with your application form.

This should be between 1,000 and 1,500 words.

It should describe your academic interests and your purpose and objectives in undertaking graduate study.”

Source: LSE
Personal Statement: preparation

Motivation

Future

Academic

Special attributes

Personal Statement

Work experience

Interests

Skills
Content

• Motivation to study

• What is the relationship with your first degree?

• Your suitability – skills/personal experiences/achievements/interests/values?

• Academic background and achievements

• Related work experience (paid, unpaid, hobbies)

• Evidence of reflection/learnings

• Your strengths/unique factors about you

• Your future – where does this step fit in?
Top Tips

• Stick to the word count (if there is one)

• Write a draft first

• Use good English: no typos/grammatical errors

• Start with a strong introduction: create impact

• Aim to tell a story

• Be positive and enthusiastic

• Give evidence to support your assertions

• Highlight what is unique about you
Thank you

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