



**Trinity College Dublin**

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

# 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

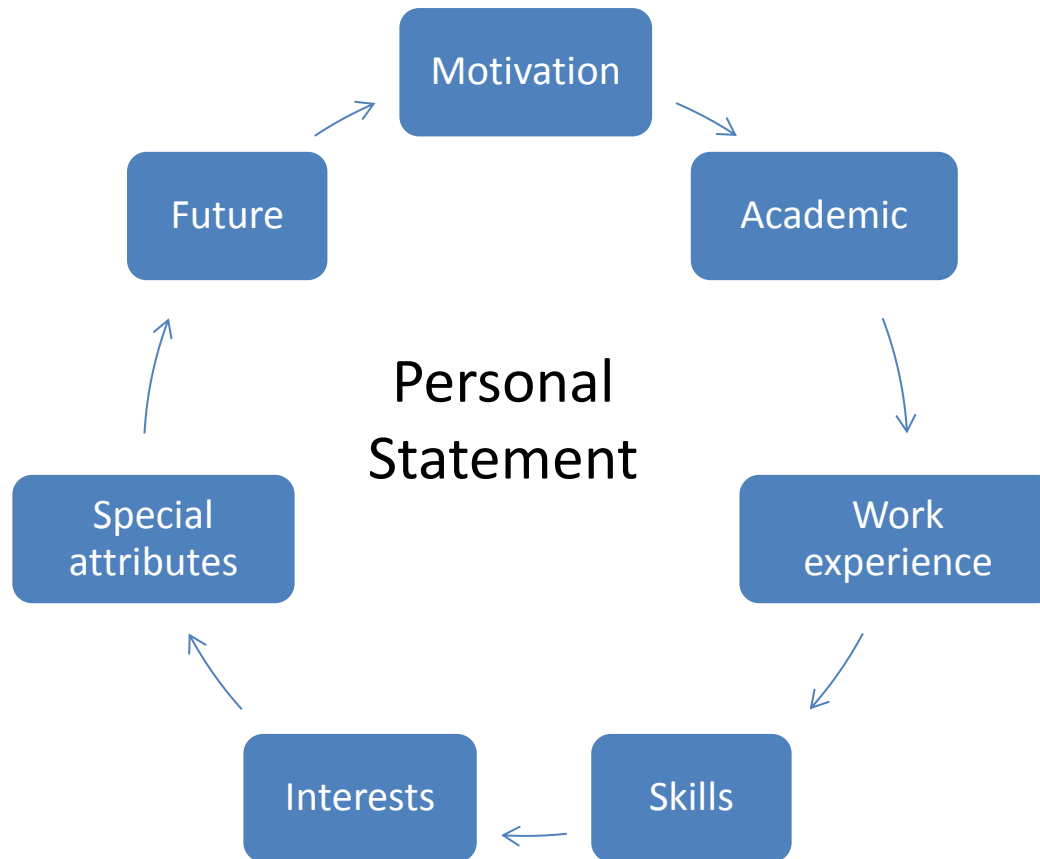
# Sample personal statement

“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.”

# Personal Statement: preparation



# 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



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**Thank you**

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