



UNIVERSITY OF  
DERBY

# PERSONAL STATEMENT TOP TIPS

**Your personal statement is like an advert to sell yourself to the admissions tutors and demonstrate why you deserve a place on your chosen course. Make sure you're enthusiastic and showcase yourself in your best light.**

**Top tip:** Try to avoid words that you wouldn't use in everyday life. Although your personal statement needs to be professional, it should be a true reflection of you – so be yourself.

If you're applying for more than one course in unrelated subject areas, focus on the skills that are relevant for your choices and what your chosen courses have in common.

Remember that the key is to always link your skills and experiences back to the course you're applying for.



**DO**

stick to the 4000  
character limit  
or 47 lines

**DO**

be enthusiastic  
about the  
course

**DO**

get feedback  
from family  
and friends

### Why does this subject interest you?

Think about whether there's a particular aspect of the subject that you find interesting or exciting.

### How do your current/previous studies relate to the course you have chosen?

Don't worry if you haven't studied your chosen subject at school or college, just ensure you make links between what you are studying and the content of your chosen course.

**Top tip:** Don't waste your limited space on repeating anything that is included elsewhere on your application, such as just listing which level 3 qualifications you are studying.

### What relevant work experience, placements or volunteering have you done that make you a good candidate for the course?

For all courses, it's great to have some industry-relevant work experience, either paid or unpaid. However, there are some courses where a certain level of experience is one of the entry requirements, so make sure you check before writing this section.

### What are your interests outside of school or college – such as hobbies, extra-curricular activities and additional responsibilities?

Talk about any hobbies or clubs that you attend – anything from playing for a football team or playing a musical instrument to volunteering. These show that you can commit to extra responsibilities outside of school, among lots of other great skills.

### What skills or qualities do these experiences give you?

Don't just list your hobbies and extra-curricular activities. Make sure you give examples of what skills, qualities and experience you have gained (eg. teamwork, communication, interpersonal skills) and why these are useful for your chosen course.

### How would studying this course support your future plans?

If you know what career you'd like once you graduate, feel free to include it here. Don't worry if you're not sure, just include what you want to get out of studying a degree and your overall goal.



**DON'T**

copy someone  
elses statement

**DON'T**

exaggerate

**DON'T**

use cliches such  
as 'I have always  
wanted to be...'