

# UCAS – The Personal Statement

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Studies

A stylized silhouette of a mountain range in shades of teal, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

# Personal Statements are important

- ◆ Especially early in the application cycle
- ◆ For courses which do not interview
- ◆ For influencing the content of interviews
- ◆ For courses with definite entry profile requirements
- ◆ Because they are both a positive & a negative selector.

NB An early applicant = an organised applicant

# 12 tips to produce a good personal statement

- ◆ Start early – in Year 12
- ◆ Research the entry profile of your chosen course
- ◆ On UCAS website look for EP desirable skills/qualities at entry
- ◆ List your own interests/abilities/achievements
- ◆ Do your interests/abilities/achievements match those on the Entry Profile?
- ◆ If not extra reading ; work experience, key skills development etc.. may be needed. Use Y12 summer holidays

# 12 tips to produce a good personal statement

- ◆ Highlight EP skills/qualities in your personal statement
- ◆ Aim to stand out because of your skills/qualities & the way you describe them
- ◆ Aim for interest, modesty & teachability – avoid too eccentric, arrogant or dogmatic
- ◆ Spelling & grammar are vital
- ◆ Don`t lie or over-exaggerate
- ◆ Remember the law of diminishing returns

# Constructing the Personal Statement

- ◆ Must be clearly paragraphed
- ◆ Be about 300 to 500 words
- ◆ You are told the number of characters that you have left by the software
- ◆ Write in short clear sentences ; do not waste words
- ◆ Keep lists to a minimum
- ◆ Liaise with the reference writer (Housemaster, Mr.G, Mr. G) – don` t repeat information supplied elsewhere on the form
- ◆ First sentences are difficult ; jump in!

# Structuring the Personal Statement

Suggestion ; 2 sections

Section1 :  $2/3^{\text{rd}}$  weighting

Section 2 :  $1/3^{\text{rd}}$  weighting

# Section 1 – Reasons for choosing your degree course

- ◆ Why you are interested in ....
- ◆ Specific examples of your interest eg. books, articles etc
- ◆ If a non 6<sup>th</sup> subject where does your interest stem?
- ◆ Academic interests & achievements
- ◆ Relevant work experience (especially medicine & law applicants)
- ◆ Convey genuine motivation & enthusiasm
- ◆ (Examples of academic extension)
- ◆ READ EXAMPLES AT BACK OF HANDOUT

# Section 2 – You the person

- ◆ Individual strengths & qualities (linked to the EP)
- ◆ Hobbies & interests
- ◆ Non-academic achievements
- ◆ Study skills
- ◆ Ability to cope with a demanding life
- ◆ Teachability
- ◆ Gap year plans if deferred entry – how might this develop your skills (section 1)

# Section 2 – You the person

- ◆ Demonstrate ; leadership skills, capacity for teamwork, enterprise, sensitivity to needs of others, contribution to the community, determination to stick to a task
- ◆ DO NOT make list of school sports, countries visited etc.
- ◆ Short concluding sentence ; why you are interesting in your own right with your own values, priorities & agenda, someone who will clearly benefit from both the course & university life.

# Our Mission (should we chose to accept it)

- ◆ To complete all UCAS forms by October half-term 2011???
- ◆ NB. Your Housemaster can not begin to write your reference until your personal statement is completed.
- ◆ Still a fortnight for the form to be sent off after you have handed it in