**Research for Higher Education**

The below tasks have been designed to ensure you are conducting enough research to ensure you make an informed decision regarding university choices. Please take the time to work through each section of this document to inform and build your application.

**Possible courses and destinations**

First of all we need to identify potential courses and find universities that deliver those courses, and then you narrow it down to the universities you would like to go to. [UCAS](http://www.ucas.com) and [The Guardian University Guide](https://www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide) can help to conduct research for this section but there are lots of other websites that can help.

Please ensure you have at least one university with lower entry criteria than the others. You could, if you wanted to, have more than five universities per course if you’re struggling to narrow it down. If you are confident of the course you’d like to study then no need to fill out two tables.

**Please note** that examples might not be entirely accurate and are simply there to guide you as to what to include.

**Most likely course:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **University name** | **Grades required** | **Other notes** | **Ranking for chosen course** | **Module titles in first year** |
| e.g. St Andrews (Economics) | AAA | Must include maths, accept AAB if A achieved in EPQ | 1st | Macroeconomics  Microeconomics  Mathematics for economists |
| 1. |  |  |  |  |
| 2. |  |  |  |  |
| 3. |  |  |  |  |
| 4. |  |  |  |  |
| 5. |  |  |  |  |

**Other possible course:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **University name** | **Grades required** | **Other notes** | **Ranking for chosen course** | **Module titles in first year** |
| e.g. Cardiff (Psychology) | AAA-AAB | A in EPQ typically results in a lower offer | 8th | Psychological research, research methods, human behaviour, language and memory |
| 1. |  |  |  |  |
| 2. |  |  |  |  |
| 3. |  |  |  |  |
| 4. |  |  |  |  |
| 5. |  |  |  |  |

**Personal Statement**

Your personal statement will play a huge role in securing a place at the university of your choice. You’ll have 4000 characters, or 47 lines, to make an admissions tutor believe you’ll be successful on their course.

**Open and Close**

First of all, a quick word about the opening and closing passages. Try to be different. Here are the most common openings according to UCAS;

1. From a young age, I have (always) been [interested in/fascinated by]…
2. For as long as I can remember, I have…
3. I am applying for this course because…
4. I have always been interested in…
5. Throughout my life, I have always enjoyed…
6. Reflecting on my educational experiences…
7. Nursing is a very challenging and demanding [career/course]…
8. Academically, I have always been…
9. I have always wanted to pursue a career in…
10. I have always been passionate about…

We can worry more about that later, but please do take these parts seriously. For now, I want you to think about what you’ve done that can contribute to a good personal statement.

**Main section**

There are different ways to approach this. You might break it up into your subject choices or your break it down by skills/knowledge that you can offer. Again, you can worry about that later. The purpose of the below table is to get you to try and accumulate a range of things that you could say in your statement.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Subject | Subject content that could be useful and link to specific modules | Skills that could be useful and link to specific modules |
| e.g. Sport | Strong performance in and enjoyment of psychological components such as anxiety in sport, which links strongly to the sport psychology module in the first year. | Performance analysis within the coursework component links strongly to the biomechanics modules available.  Extended writing in coursework... |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

Now think outside of your subjects. What have you done that can set you apart from others? How can you apply this to your chosen course? This could include further reading, MOOCs, charity work, leadership roles, music grades, to name just a few.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Experience | Link to course |
| e.g. House captain | e.g. This has involved duties such as attending lower school house sport and organising charity events. Alongside my studies, this has taught me to manage my time effectively alongside. |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
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|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

This will form the basis of your personal statement work after Easter.

Any questions, send me an e-mail and I’ll do what I can do help. If the question starts with ‘should I include...’, then the answer, at this stage, is yes. We can cut and edit later.

Good luck,

Mr F

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