

# S6 Session 2:

Your Personal Statement





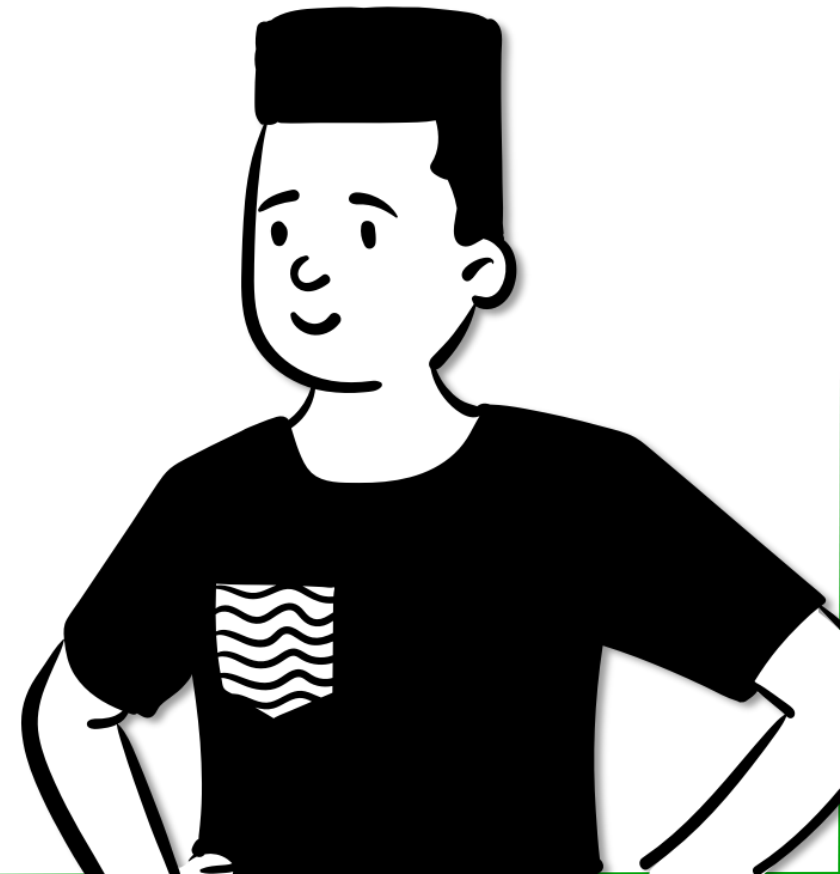
## Schools for Higher Education Programme

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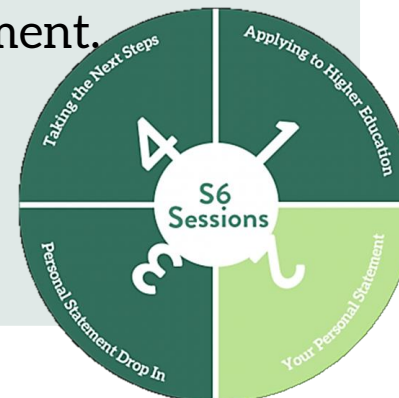
## Last Session:

- How to search the right course for you.
- How to apply to your chosen course.
- Tips to start planning your Personal Statement.



## This Session:

- Understand the importance of a personal statement, how it is used and what admissions officers are looking for.
- How to begin structuring your statement.
- What makes an effective statement.

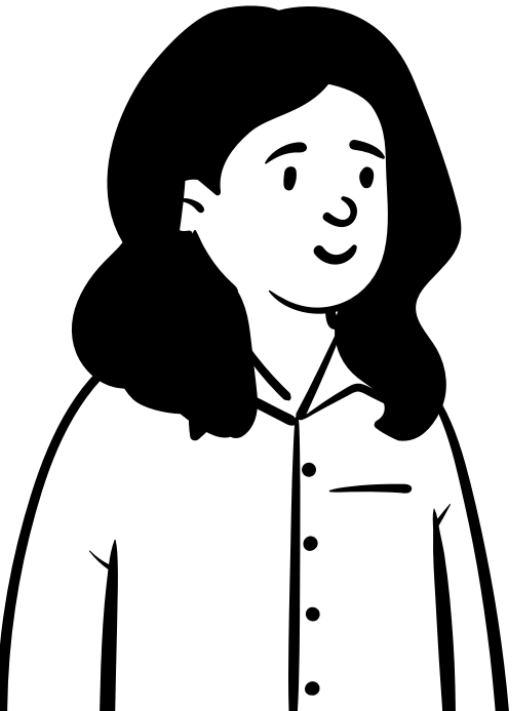


# Importance of the Personal Statement

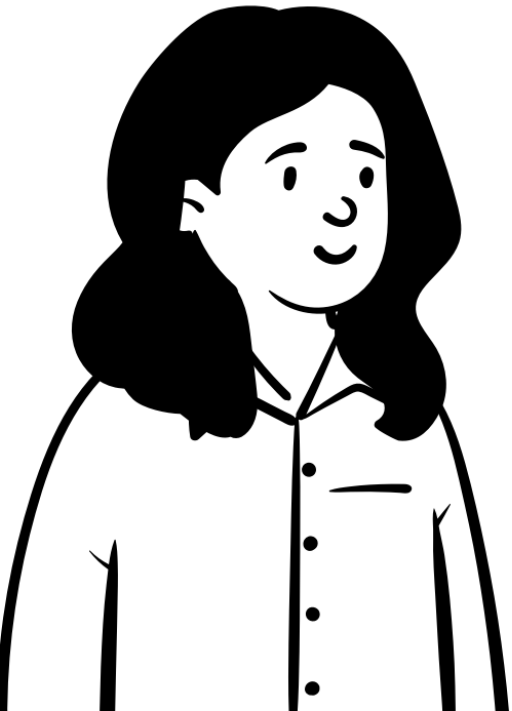
Can make the difference on whether you receive an offer or  
not  
especially if your application is borderline.

What are they looking for?

"Don't forget about the obvious! **Why do you want to study your chosen course?** Hopefully it's something you know the answer to and have taken a lot of time to think about so make sure you include it."



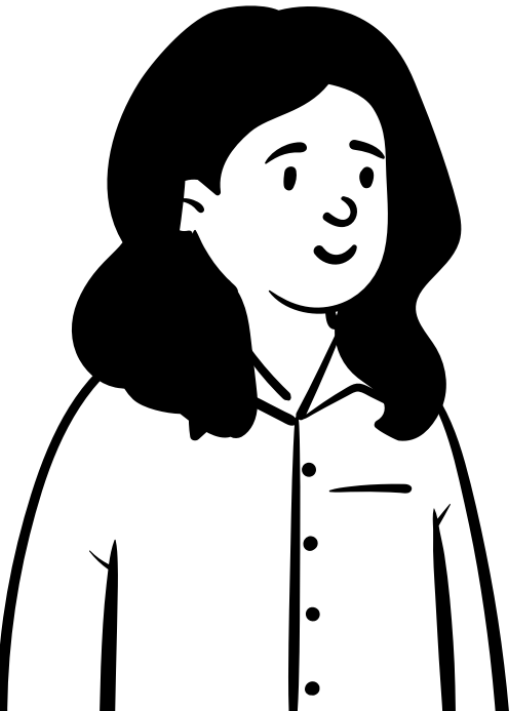
What are they looking for?



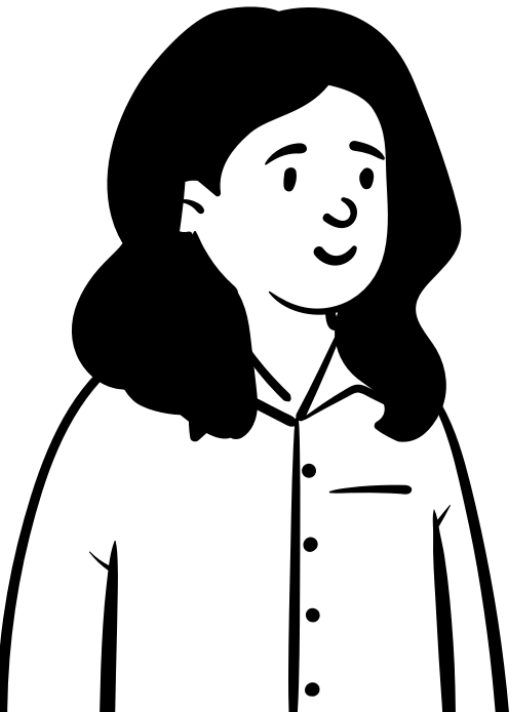
"Unis aren't looking for a dictionary definition of a subject. They know what their degrees are about; they want to know what **you understand and enjoy about the subject.**"

What are they looking for?

"The best personal statements effectively link examples of the student's **extra-curricular activities** with the university's **entry requirements**."



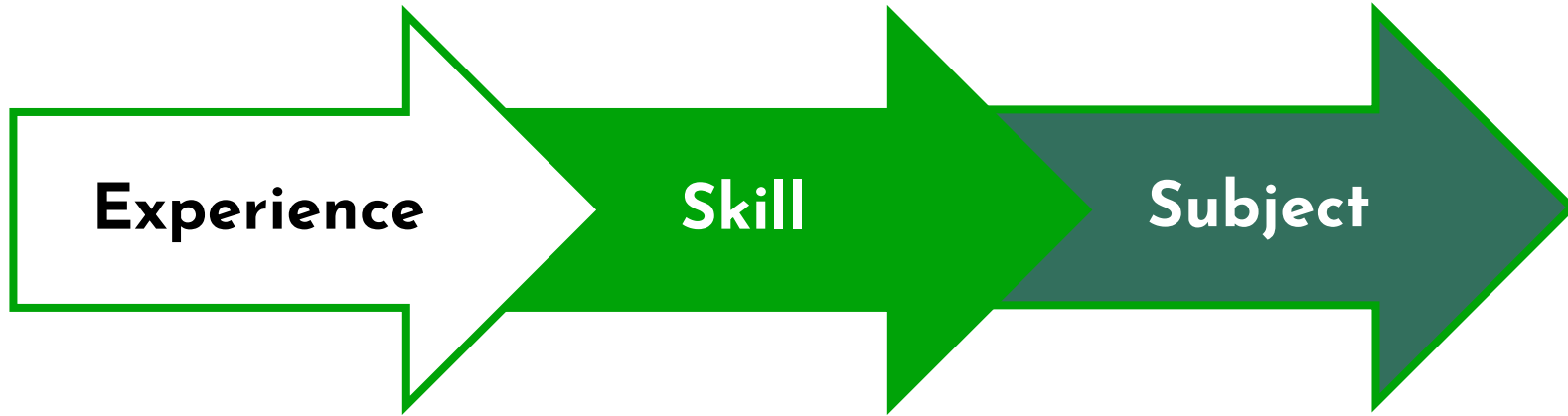
What are they looking for?



"Enthusiasm, motivation and focus about the subject you're applying to. Mention **extra-curricular activities, transferable skills** and include what your **future career plans** are after your degree."



# Experience and Skills



# Structuring your statement

If you are finding structuring your statement really difficult, **you are not alone.**



# Structuring your statement

**3 section (not paragraph) method:**

**Section 1 - Why you want to study the course?**

**Section 2 - Demonstrate your knowledge of the course. Make clear why you are the ideal candidate for higher education.**

**Section 3 - Detail your relevant experience outside the classroom which shows your dedication to your subject and to H.E.**

## Opening Line

1	For as long as I can remember I have	1451
2	I am applying for this course because	1370
3	From a young age I have (always) been [interested in/fascinated by] 1179	
4	I have always been interested in	927
5	Throughout my life I have always enjoyed 310	



## Opening Line

**Tip!** It's often easier to come back to your introduction and opening line after you have written the main body of your statement!

# Opening Paragraph

Positive

Relevant

Impactful

Sets the tone

Sets the scene

Clearly demonstrates why you want to study this subject

# Opening Paragraph

Every time I have tried something new or been in a new situation, I have found myself to be absolutely terrified of what is going to happen. Every single time this has happened, I have come out fine at the other end and I have felt better for it. This has been both a blessing and a curse as sometimes I am more determined to take part in more challenges but other times I cannot even get through the door.

- There are a number of problems with this as an opening paragraph.
- **Tone is a little negative.** The candidate starts off their statement by saying how new situations terrify them. They should consider explaining, instead, how they overcome their challenges.
- **So what?! Why is this relevant to primary teaching?**

## Opening Paragraph

Part of my motivation to study at university is to develop my ability to embrace new challenges and help others achieve their full potential. Throughout my time at school, I was often anxious when trying new things, but always felt such an achievement when I overcame challenging learning or personal situations. This experience, I believe, would stand me in good stead to undertake a degree, and eventually a career, in primary teaching , as I will be able to learn and develop from my own experiences to help young children develop the confidence to achieve their full potential.



## Showing your motivation & understanding

We recently had an assembly from MacMillan where a young man talked about his cancer journey, and how Speech Therapists helped him after his treatment for three brain tumours. This confirmed my aspiration to become a Speech Therapist as he explained how much their work meant to him.

Inspired by the on-going violations of human rights in the Middle East, I aspire to become an international human rights lawyer. I think it is of the utmost importance to wholly comprehend international relations at an academic level. My goal is to eventually work for an organisation such as the United Nations or the International Criminal Court.

## PS: History and English

The great classics of the Bronte sisters and the tragedies of Shakespeare's work engross me into their fantasy world with the bloodshed of World War One captivating me and pulling me back into reality of learning of the previous horrors of the world

The relationship between history and literature has long been a source of interest for me. Whether it be the works of the Bronte sisters, or Shakespeare's tragedies, literature acts as an historical document which provides us with a porthole into the past. I am excited by the prospect of developing my understanding of the inter-related nature of history and literature at university-level, and am motivated to take the analytical skills developed throughout my studies into my future career.

## Keeping it relevant!

I completed two university-level experiments on Rotational Dynamics and Torque. This made the subject appeal to me further, and taught me how to complete work thoroughly where perhaps school experiments did not. I have also visited Selex ES Twice, and watching both their practical and theoretical work has helped prepare me for working in the pressures of a lab and let me see physics become practical first hand.

## Keeping it relevant!

Throughout my time at school I have undertaken a number of extra-curricular activities including Paired Reading during which I help younger pupils become more confident readers and communicators, as well as Peer Counselling where I offer support to pupils struggling with the transition to secondary school. Undertaking both these roles allowed me to develop my communication and caring skills and I am keen to reinforce this further at university-level. I am particularly interested in exploring the ways in which engaging with literature can develop others' confidence.

English



Keeping it relevant!

**Top Tip!**

In a well-written, focused and knowledgeable personal statement, your reader should be able to guess what subject you are applying for without even seeing reference to the subject.

Can you do this with your own statement?

# Concluding Paragraph

Should deliver a natural / logical end for the reader

Could make reference to the opening paragraph

Could talk about future aspirations / career goals

Could mention looking forward to student experience / life

Should be clear and concise and leave the reader with a 'take home message'

# Concluding Paragraph

I enjoy finding solution to how a space is most effectively used and how to make it most pleasing to those using it. My skills and interests are perfectly suited to this course and I would love to extend my knowledge and understanding of architecture further at University.

**Architecture**

## Concluding Paragraph

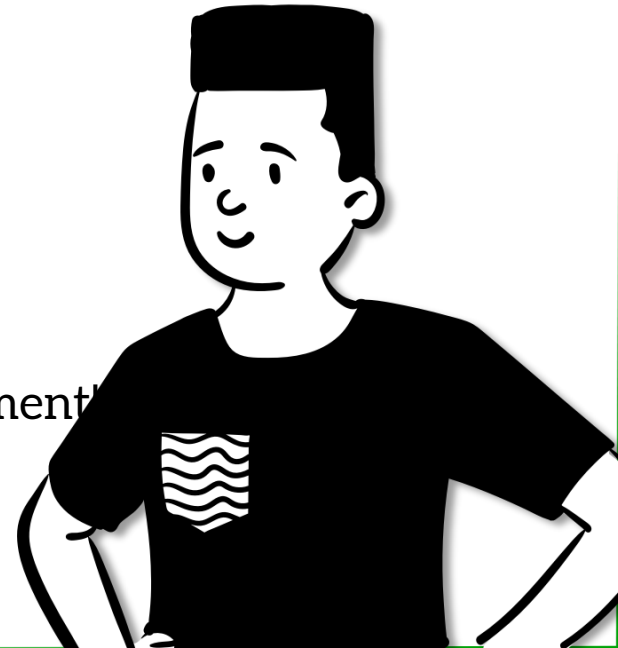
After achieving my degree in the field of business, I am determined to use the business skills gained in order to further my problem solving skills and my leadership skills and to use these gained skills in my future field of business.

I am motivated to develop my problem solving and leadership skills throughout my time at University and am excited about the prospect of taking these skills forward into my future career.



## Things to remember...

- Be positive and write with confidence!
- Follow a logical structure throughout your statement.
- Be original - and don't be tempted to share or copy statements.
- Make sure you maintain relevance.
- Be open to feedback - redrafting really helps you to create a strong statement!



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- Understand the importance of a personal statement, how it is used and what admissions officers are looking for.
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- What makes an effective statement.



## Next Session:

### Personal Statement Drop in

- Bring along your personal statement draft to the drop-in session and a member of the LIFT OFF team will provide tailored guidance.



Send us a Message:



[www.lift-off.org.uk](http://www.lift-off.org.uk)

Email: [lift.off@abertay.ac.uk](mailto:lift.off@abertay.ac.uk)

Call: 01592 223250



Any  
Questions?

