



**SCOTLAND'S
UNIVERSITY FOR
SPORTING
EXCELLENCE**

UNIVERSITY of
STIRLING



UCAS and Personal Statements

James Young High School
Thursday 21 September

Amy Shimmin

Student Recruitment Officer

are you
Stirling?

Applying to University

- Web-based system
- Linked to registered centre (school/college)
- Unique account with username and password

UCAS

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate>

UCAS: Key Information

- Understanding UCAS deadlines is really important to allow you to plan your time and ensure you are submitting the best application you can
- There are firm UCAS deadlines, but please note that school's deadline will be earlier
- School deadlines are there to support your child and make sure they're on track with their application

UCAS Deadlines for 2024:

- Monday 16th October 2024, 6pm (Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Oxbridge)
- Wednesday 31st January 2024, 6pm (Equal Consideration Deadline)
- Conservatoires – may be earlier

UCAS: Key Information

- There is a fee that must be paid in order for you to submit your UCAS application
- £27.50 - same fee for one choice or more than one choice
- It is paid just before an application is submitted to UCAS



<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate>

Main UCAS Sections

Choices

Profile

Education

Employment

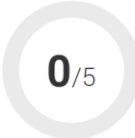
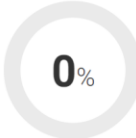
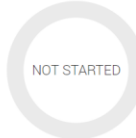
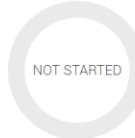

Personal Statement

Reference

Application status

Centre information
You are not linked to a centre. Use the link below to link your application to your centre.

[Add buzzword](#)

 0/5 CHOICES	 0% PROFILE	 NOT STARTED PERSONAL STATEMENT	 NOT STARTED REFERENCE	 0% Review and submit
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Profile

Personal details

Name, age, title and gender

✓ Section complete

Contact & residency details

Address, email, telephone and where you live

✓ Section complete

Nationality details

Birthplace and nationalities

✓ Section complete

Supporting information

So that providers know how to support you during your studies

✓ Section complete

English language skills

Is English your first language?

✓ Section complete

Finance & funding

Tell us how you'll fund your study

✓ Section complete

Diversity & inclusion

Only shared with a provider once you have a place or your application is archived

✓ Section complete

More about you

Tell us about any circumstances that you might need support for during your studies.

✓ Section complete

Have you been in care?

Select yes if you've ever lived in public care or as a looked-after child, including:

- with foster carers under local authority care
- in a residential children's home
- being 'looked after at home' under a supervision order
- living with friends or relatives in kinship care

Note: This does not refer to time spent in boarding schools, working in a care or healthcare setting, or if you are a carer yourself. Please note that eligibility for support may differ between higher education providers – we strongly recommend contacting the student support team in advance of making an application

Yes No

Nominated access

Do you want someone else to be able to act, or speak on your behalf, about your application? e.g. A parent, teacher, other relative or guardian. If you are using an agent, you can choose to enter their details.

You're able to enter details of someone you're happy to help manage your application - this is called nominated access.

Yes No

Full name of nominee *

The first and last name of your nominee. They will be asked this information when speaking to UCAS on your behalf.

Relationship to you *

How you know your nominee. They will be asked this information when speaking to UCAS on your behalf.

Have you been in care? – under local authority supervision, kinship care, foster care etc. Does not mean work in care sector or unpaid care

Profile: Diversity & Inclusion

Nominated access – we cannot talk to parents, guardians etc unless they have been nominated.

Profile: Contact and Residency Details

Every year, over 60,000 students with a physical and/or mental health condition, long-term illness, or learning difference apply through UCAS to study at a university or college in the UK, and access a range of support available to help with their studies, day-to-day activities, travel, or lifestyle. Would you consider yourself as living with any of the following: *

- None
- A visual impairment uncorrected by glasses (e.g. blindness or partial sight)
- A long-term illness or health condition which may involve pain or cause fatigue, loss of concentration or breathing difficulties – including any effects from taking associated medication.
- A mental health condition, challenge or disorder (e.g. anxiety or depression)
- A physical impairment or challenges with mobility (e.g. climbing stairs or uneven surfaces), or dexterity (e.g. using a keyboard or laboratory equipment)
- Two or more impairments or conditions (please give details in the box below)
- A social, behavioural or communication impairment (e.g. an autistic spectrum condition or Tourette's Syndrome)
- A learning difference (e.g. dyslexia, dyspraxia, or AD(H)D)
- A hearing impairment (e.g. deafness or partial hearing)
- A condition or impairment not listed (please give details in the box below)

Disability – to share any information that may have impacted your studies and to inform you about our Student Support Services if required. You can also add further details if needed

Profile: More About You

Profile: More About You

Would you consider yourself estranged from your parents (i.e. you're not in contact with and supported by your parents)?

Yes No

Do you have any caring responsibilities?

Yes No

Are you a parent or do you have parenting responsibilities?

Yes No

Do you have official refugee status or limited leave to remain, or are you seeking asylum?

No The UK government has granted me refugee status or humanitarian protection in the UK
 I have limited or discretionary leave to remain in the UK I'm currently seeking asylum in the UK

Do you have a parent or carer who currently serves in the UK Armed Forces, or who has done so in the past?

Yes No

Have you ever served in the UK Armed Forces?

Yes No

Are you currently receiving free school meals, or were you in receipt of free school meals between the ages of 11 to 18?

Yes No Don't know

Would you consider yourself estranged? – there has been a permanent breakdown in your relationship with your parents, you are not in contact with them and there's no sign of this being resolved in future

Do you have any caring responsibilities? – do you provide physical, practical or emotional support regularly to someone who would not manage without your help? This may be a friend or family member who has a long term illness or disability – not work experience in care

Refugee status/asylum seeker – have you received refugee status after arriving in the UK, or are you waiting to find out if you will receive this status?

Parent/carers in the UK Armed Forces – does one or more of your parents/guardians currently serve in the Army, RAF, Navy, etc, or have they previously?

Free school meals – do you receive free school meals or have you received free school meals since you turned 11?

Main UCAS Sections: Choices

Applicant 1	Applicant 2
English	Psychology
Nursing	Sociology and Social Policy
Biology	Politics
Music	Psychology
Sport	Psychology

- 5 different course choices – these can be a variety of different courses and universities
- There are some exceptions:
 - Oxford OR Cambridge
 - Only 4 choices for Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry
- Why not use all 5 options? – Remember to **think carefully** about course choices
- Same personal statement for all 5 choices
 - Look at the following example – can both applicants write a suitable personal statement?

Main UCAS Sections: Education & Employment

Education

- All current and previous qualifications
- Remember – check entry requirements for grades required, essential subjects, National 5 requirements

Employment

- Paid employment only
- Provides additional information – any employment or experience relevant to your application should be talked about in your personal statement

Education



Qualifications and periods of study

[Start this section](#)

Employment



Employment, paid, unpaid, or volunteer work

[Start this section](#)

Personal Statement

PERSONAL STATEMENT

2024 Undergraduate application

[Home](#) / [UCAS application](#) / [Personal statement](#)

[Return to application overview](#)

- ✓ **Personal details**
- ✓ **Contact and residency details**
- ✓ **Nationality details**
- ✓ **Supporting information**
- ✓ **English language skills**
- ✓ **Finance and funding**
- ✓ **Diversity and inclusion**
- ✓ **More about you**

[Education](#)

[Employment](#)

[Extra activities](#)

[Personal statement](#)

[Reference](#)

Our guide to [writing your personal statement](#) (opens in a new window) should help you complete this section. We strongly recommend you write the statement using a word-processor and paste it in to your application.

You can type your statement directly into the box or edit a statement you have pasted in.

Personal statement *

Characters used: 0 of 4000 characters

- Max. 47 lines of text
- Max. 4000 characters
- (approx. 600 words)



Things to consider

First impressions count!

Spelling, grammar, email addresses, tone – think of the audience

Should enhance your application

Don't waste characters repeating information

Consider course choices

Remember – 1 personal statement for all courses

Gap year?

Must be own work

This will be checked!

Why is the personal statement important?

- To shortlist applicants – some courses have an interview process or a second stage
- For applicants to stand out – lots of students may apply to our most popular courses with the same grades – personal statement helps us get to know you better especially if there's no interview and check you are motivated and interested in your subject
- To check work experience – for some courses, we might expect you to have completed some paid or voluntary work experience
- To help for future applications – can be adapted for college applications, cover letters

What are we looking for?

It's as easy as...

A Activity

*What experience do I have?
What have I done at school?*

B Benefit

*What did I learn from this?
What skills did I gain?*

C Course

*How will this relate to the
course I want to study?
Do I understand the career I
want to go into?*

How does this make me the best applicant for a place?



A - Activity

What activities have you done while at school?

- Work experience
- Volunteering
- School trips
- Coursework/project
- Clubs
- Sports
- Part-time job
- LEAPS/Reach/Sutton Trust

What did you do? Break the activities down

Example 1 - volunteer for a local community group

- Creating social media content
- Monitoring who has attended meetings
- Liaising with members

Example 2 – school trip to University of Stirling

- Cinema trip with Higher Spanish class
- Watched a film about Spanish Civil War
- Attended a taster university lecture



B - Benefit

What skills has this given you? What did you learn about yourself/the topic?

- Knowledge of a career/subject
- Communication
- Team work
- Leadership
- Presenting skills
- Networking

Activity = volunteer for a community group

Skills:

- Communication
- Managing online platforms
- Creating digital content

Activity = attended University trip

Skills:

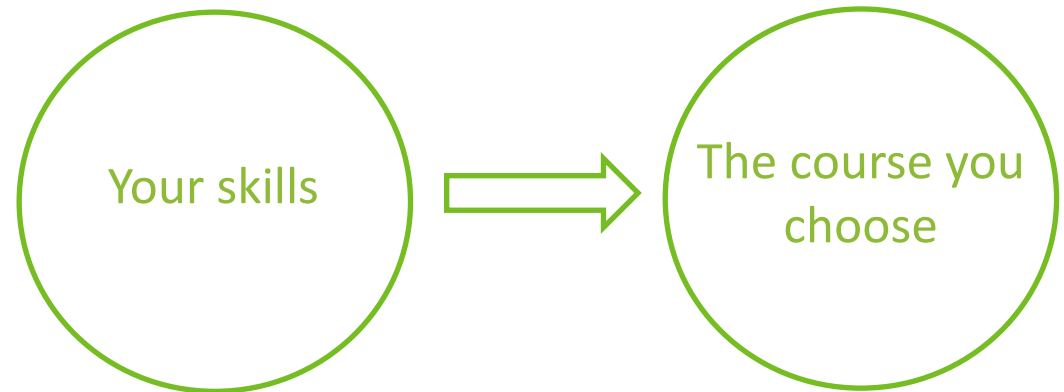
- Interest in subject area
- Note taking skills
- Knowledge of University life



C - Course

How does this experience or these skills relate to your course?

How do the skills relate?



Examples:

As part of my Higher in Geography, I had to work in a team to complete fieldwork. Here, I learned to listen and to support others, delegating roles within the group to complete tasks while working to a deadline and sharing findings within our project team. I understand that a degree in Business & Management will also involve a number of group assignments. Likewise, I am looking forward to learning in seminars as this will involve sharing ideas and reflections with a small group.



ABC – Social Work

1. Skills for the course
2. Your skills
3. How do they relate?

Skills required for Social Work	My skills
People person	Volunteered in community for Duke of Edinburgh – worked with lots and different people and saw how social workers worked in community
Dealing with difficult situations	Managed complaints at my part time job at a restaurant – sometimes dealing with angry or upset customers
Time management	Managing school work and responsibilities at home – supports care of younger sibling

ABC – Business Studies

1. Skills for the course
2. Your skills
3. How do they relate?

Skills required for Business Studies	My skills
Subject knowledge	Went to a subject taster day at University – attended a lecture and learned study skills
Leadership and team work	Volunteered at a school careers fair. Learned about different local employers and trained younger pupils volunteering
Time management	Training with football team 3 x week alongside Highers

Next steps

4 possible outcomes:

- Unconditional offer
- Conditional offer
- Interview
- Unable to make an offer

Once you hear back from ALL of your choices (June 2024)

- 1 x FIRM acceptance (1st choice)
- 1 x INSURANCE choice
- Decline all other offers



How can I support my young person?

- Encourage them to think about their strengths and weaknesses
- Attend Open Days together – many include Parent/Carer Sessions
- Be aware of school UCAS deadlines
- Help young people prepare practically for university – budgeting, time management, resilience
- Look into Plan Bs and Cs together





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Keep in touch!

Open Days -
www.stir.ac.uk/openday

- Wednesday 4 October (virtual)
- Saturday 21 October (on campus)

recruitment@stir.ac.uk
wp@stir.ac.uk

are you
Stirling?