



SCOTLAND'S
UNIVERSITY FOR
SPORTING
EXCELLENCE

UNIVERSITY of
STIRLING



UCAS and Personal Statements

James Young High School
19th September 2024

Amy Shimmin

Student Recruitment Officer

are you
Stirling?

Studying at Stirling

Faculty of Arts & Humanities

English, Film & Media, History, Journalism, Languages, Law, Philosophy, Politics, Religion

Faculty of Health Sciences and Sport

Adult Nursing, Mental Health Nursing, Paramedic Science, Sport & Exercise Science, Sport Business Management, Sports Development & Coaching, Sport Psychology

Faculty of Natural Sciences

Biological Sciences, Computing, Ecology, Environmental Sciences, Geography, Marine Biology, Mathematics, Psychology, Software Engineering

Faculty of Social Sciences

Criminology, Primary Education, Physical Education, Secondary Education, Social Policy, Social Work, Sociology

Stirling Management School

Accountancy, Business Studies, Economics, Finance, Human Resource Management, Management, Marketing

Applying to University

- Web-based application
- Linked to registered centre (school/college)
- Unique account with username and password
- £28.50 fee to apply (fee waiver for FSM)

UCAS

UCAS Key Information

- UCAS sets its own deadlines but so will your school – your school's deadline will be earlier!
- School deadlines are in place to support your young person and make sure they're on track with their application

UCAS Deadlines for 2025 entry:

- Tuesday 15th October 2024, 6pm (Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Oxbridge)
- Wednesday 29th January 2025, 6pm (Equal Consideration Deadline)
- Conservatoires – may be earlier

Main UCAS Sections

Choices

Profile

Education

Employment

Personal Statement

Reference

The image shows a screenshot of the UCAS application status dashboard and profile sections. The top section, titled "Application status", displays progress for various sections: CHOICES (0/5), PROFILE (0%), PERSONAL STATEMENT (NOT STARTED), REFERENCE (ADD REFERENCE), and a final "Review and submit" button (0%). Below this is the "Centre information" section with a link to "Add buzzword". The main "Profile" section is divided into several sub-sections: Personal details, Nationality details, Where you live, Contact details, Supporting information, and Finance & funding. Each sub-section has a "Start this section" button. Below the profile section is the "Experience" section, which includes "Education" and "Employment" sub-sections, each with a "Start this section" button. The bottom section is "Personal Statement & References", which includes "Personal statement" and "References" sub-sections, each with a "Start this section" button. The "References" sub-section also includes a "Reference status" section with a radio button for "Referee details added".

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

ADD REFERENCE
REFERENCE

Review and submit >

Profile

Personal details

Name, age, title and gender

Start this section

Nationality details

Birthplace and nationalities

Start this section

Where you live

Tell us about your address history

Start this section

Contact details

Address, email and telephone

Start this section

Supporting information

So that providers know how to support you during your studies

Start this section

Finance & funding

Tell us how you'll fund your study

Start this section

Experience

Education

Qualifications and periods of study

Start this section

Employment

Paid employment

Start this section

Personal Statement & References

Personal statement

Why do you want to study this subject?

Start this section

References

Provide details of your referees. This section will complete once your chosen referee completes your reference online.

Start this section

Reference status
 Referee details added

Care support information

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

Profile: More About You

Would you consider yourself estranged from both your parents (i.e. you are not in contact with and supported by either of your parents)?

Yes No

Do you have any unpaid caring responsibilities (not including parenting)?

Yes No

Are you a parent or do you have parenting responsibilities for a child aged 17 or under?

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?

Tell us about any [circumstances you might need support for during your studies](#). We want to reassure you that this information is confidential and will **not** negatively impact your application.

Information will be shared with those involved in supporting you – not all universities and colleges offer the same support, so it is a good idea to contact them directly to ask any questions before you apply.

We may also use this information (anonymously) for monitoring purposes to inform and improve support for future students.

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 social, behavioural or communication impairment (e.g. an autistic spectrum condition or Tourette's Syndrome)

A visual impairment uncorrected by glasses (e.g. blindness or partial sight)

A hearing impairment (e.g. deafness or partial hearing)

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 learning difference (e.g. dyslexia, dyspraxia, or AD(H)D)

A physical impairment or challenges with mobility (e.g. climbing stairs or uneven surfaces), or dexterity (e.g. using a keyboard or laboratory equipment)

A condition or impairment not listed (please give details in the box below)

Two or more impairments or conditions (please give details in the box below)

Yes No

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

Main UCAS Sections: Choices

- 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

Understanding Entry Requirements

- Important to consider University entry requirements as part of research process
- National 5 requirements for Education, Social Work courses
- Conditional and Unconditional offers
- Minimum entry requirements

Year 1 entry - Four-year honours

SQA Highers

AABB

Essential subjects

To include one of Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics.

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 - 2025

PERSONAL STATEMENT

- Personal details
- Nationality details
- Where you live
- Contact details
- Supporting information
- 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)

Personal Statement – 2026 onwards

1. Why do you want to study this course or subject?

- **Motivation** for choosing this course
- **Knowledge** of subject area

2. How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

- How are your current and previous studies **relevant** to your chosen course?
- What **transferable/core skills** do you have?

3. What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

- Work experience, volunteering, employment
- Personal experiences, any other hobbies, activities or achievements

**Max. 4000 characters
(approx. 600 words)
across all questions**

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

Must be your own work

This will be checked!

Why is my personal statement important?

- To decide whether to make an offer – we check that you have the right motivation and understanding for the subject you want to study
- 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
- To check work experience – for some courses, we might expect you to have completed some paid or voluntary work experience

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?*

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

ABC – Social Work

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 alongside activities and caring for younger sibling with additional needs

ABC – Psychology

Skills required for Psychology	My skills
Subject knowledge	Went to a subject taster event at University – learned study skills and more about Social Psychology and using Statistics
Understanding of careers in Psychology	Volunteered at a school careers fair – attended a session with a Psychologist to speak to class about their career pathway
Time management	Training with football team 3 x week alongside Highers

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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Thanks for listening!

Open Day – Saturday 26 October
www.stir.ac.uk/openday

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

are you
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