

Personal Statement for Masters Level study

An opportunity to demonstrate academic potential, understanding of the course, independent learning skills and a willingness to contribute to student life.

- Be prepared to demonstrate academic interest, subject specific knowledge, ability and motivation using hard evidence taken from academic achievements, work experience and extra-curricular activities
- Be concise. Only highlight information that is relevant
- Be organised. Ensure information is logically progressive
- Be positive. Start each section with your impressive achievements and evidence

Structuring your statement (around 500 words)

Introduction – Why do you want to study the course? What interests you about the subject area? What aspirations do you have, beyond this study?

Academic achievements – What academic skills and knowledge do you have that will prepare you to succeed in your chosen subject?

Work experience/employment/volunteering – Write about any skills that you have gained from work experience, employment and/or volunteering opportunities and how these experiences prepare you for further university study

Extra-curricular activities/awards – Mention any other achievements or extra-curricular activities that demonstrate you have the relevant skills for the course being applied for

Conclusion – Finish with a brief summary. Why should you be offered a place? Remember what the admissions tutors are looking for and leave them with a good impression.

Checklist

Prepare

- Explore course options using www.findamasters.com
- Know your funding options - www.findamasters.com/funding/
- Thoroughly research each course and subject before applying
- Make a list of your relevant achievements. Consider what you have done and what skills have you developed and how these have prepared you for the course
- Ensure you have sufficient work experience (if required)

Compile

- Use the personal statement structure to address admission requirements
- Ensure you relate all skills and activities with the course
- Provide evidence for all of the skills you mention

Check

- Ensure there are no spelling or grammar mistakes
- Bring your draft statement to a Careers Service 'Drop In' (next to the shop in the Students' Union building) every week day term time 10.30am-1pm (Mon-Fri) and 2-4.30pm (Mon-Thurs) / 2-3.30pm (Fri), or forward by email to careers@aber.ac.uk