

Medicine Personal Statements

Writing your Medicine Personal Statement

Writing a personal statement can be a challenge– you have to try to sell yourself to a university, which for some can feel very unnatural. In only 4000 characters, how do you sum up your passion to study Medicine and why a university should choose you? It can be difficult to know how to start, so we have produced this handy guide to help you.

You must consider why you want to apply to Medicine, what induced your passion? What makes you better than the other candidates? You should also think why have you chosen to apply to the universities that you have, is there anything that interests you particularly about that course? How do you learn best and is that university's teaching style suited to you?

Section 1: Why the course?

As well as wanting to get to know you as an applicant, a university wants to know why you have chosen to pick that course in the first place. So think...



Why Medicine? How do your current studies relate to it? Make sure past experiences are only mentioned briefly!



Why does it interest you? What particular elements of the course do you like and why? Show the research you have done. Think about what type of teaching the university offers, how does their curriculum suit you?



Why university? Link any academic skills you have that will help you to strive at university.



It is important to reflect on your extra-curricular activity, to think about the skills that you have gained. All students applying to Medicine will be academically capable and this will be reflected on their UCAS form. This section is for you to show how you stand out!

Section 2: Skills and Achievements



For example, you may have volunteered in a care home. Here, you will have had to be patient as you were working with elderly patients who may not have been able to understand you well. You may have developed communication skills, as well as an ability to persevere and deal with difficult situations.

Always say why you are including a specific skill, and try to link it to your future studies!

Section 3: Hobbies and Interests

What is it that makes you interesting? Think about what you enjoy doing outside of school/college, and what you have learnt from this.

E.g. **Rugby:** you may have developed your skills in teamwork, organisation, an ability to learn quickly and have found a passion you would like to continue at university.

Make sure to talk in detail about your own experiences and add in anything that relates to medicine. Think about how these demonstrate skills and abilities.



Work experience is a key part of applying to Medicine. It allows you an insight into what a career in Medicine may hold. Your work experience does not necessarily have to be in a hospital or GP– we recognise that it can be very difficult to obtain this type of work experience, therefore we request that this experience is instead in some form of caring setting if you cannot gain experience in a clinical setting. This could be things like volunteering in a youth club, as a classroom assistant, in charity shops or care-homes.

Section 4: Work Experience



Think about why and how these experiences have made you want to study more, and what skills you have learned from it.

Section 5: Conclusion

A conclusion sets the finishing tone of your personal statement. You want to ensure it is impactful, and summarises all that you have mentioned earlier.



Talk about any future plans if you have any. Such as do you have a particular specialism in mind, would you like to work in a certain area?



Focus on the course itself. What is it you like about that course? Make sure this is relevant for all universities that you apply to, as your universities will all receive the same personal statement.



What do you want to achieve at university? And what will you bring to the university? Be specific!

Top Tips

Check spelling and grammar



Write several drafts, collecting honest feedback on each

Give examples of your strengths, reflect on your skills and why experiences have made you want to study medicine

Write actively

Don't plagiarise personal statements

Don't use jokes

Don't exaggerate/lie



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