

Global Opportunities

Personal statement – FAQ's

Q – Do I have to write my Personal Statement in the language of my destination choice(s)?

A – No. Your GO application is an internal document, only to be reviewed by Newcastle staff. Please write in English.

Q – Can I see examples of previous successful Personal Statements?

A – No. GO has decided to not give applicants example answers to curb mimicry and plagiarism. Markers are looking for personalised, original pieces of writing rather than formulaic answers.

Q – How can I stand out against all the other applicants?

A – Be yourself! Showcase what makes you a strong candidate for representing Newcastle and how you will shine during and after this experience. Demonstrate that you're realistic as well as thoughtful and considerate about all elements of living abroad – not just because it is a requirement for your degree.

Q – Should my statement be written as one long essay or as individual answers to each question?

A – You should answer each question individually; this will be clear once you begin your application on Terra Dotta.

Q – How can I tailor my statement to *five* different placements with such a limited word count?

A – For every question, we are looking to see if you have researched the institutions/destinations you are applying for. Some students have written a mini-paragraph for each choice, while others have focused only on their top two or three choices. However you choose to structure your statement, you should be making practical and informed connections between yourself and your desired locations.

Q – Should my statement be formal or informal?

A – Your personal statement should reflect your values, academic and professional goals, personal interests, and any expectations you have of working or studying abroad. How you communicate these feelings and ideas is completely up to you!

Q – How many places are available at each host university?

A – For more competitive universities (e.g., in Australia, Canada, and USA), full year placements can fluctuate between 1-7 places per year, however this is a rough estimate and can change year-on-year. This is why we recommend utilising all five choices, spreading these across different countries and ensuring at least one European partner in your selection.

Q – Does my preference order matter on the GO application?

A – Yes. You should submit your choices in preference order with your favourite first.