

Personal Statement basics

- 47 lines/4000 characters - Including spaces (roughly 500 words)
- In paragraphs – easier to read
- Type in MS Word and paste into UCAS Apply (No spell check in UCAS)
- Do not submit your first draft
- Don't repeat information already on your form
- Sell yourself

An Excellent Personal Statement

- Clever, high impact opening sentence
 - this is usually written last to avoid getting a 'block'
- Around 75% about the subject area
 - shows real passion for the subject area
- Work experience/career aspirations
- Explain context of social life/achievement
 - why? NOT what?, skills learnt and impact on self and others
- Shows real personality
- Links skills to course/career

**STRONG
WORDS**



SO WHAT?

Simple Structure

Opening paragraph

Provide insightful reasons for choosing the course and demonstrate commitment to the course

Middle section

Provide evidence of knowledge, skills and qualities relevant to courses and suitability for higher education

Final paragraph

Leave the reader with a firm impression of a strong desire to study chosen course

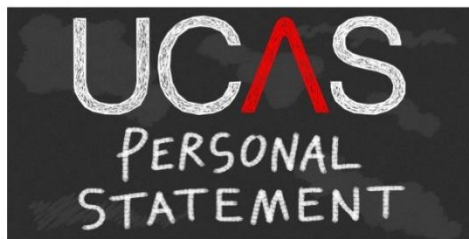
The Personal Statement – top tips

- Should be relevant to all your choices
 - Consistency in your HE choices makes the PS easier to write
- 200 personal statements per admissions tutor per week!
 - Make yours stand out
 - NB: SIMILARITY DETECTION TEST
- Write it early:
 - You will need to write a few drafts – starting now!!
 - Get someone to read through it
 - Does it make sense?...Does it flow?...Can you say ‘So what?’ to anything in it? Have you used evidence to demonstrate your skills etc.

RUTHLESS

Checklist





IF YOU NEED SUPPORT, REMEMBER YOUR CAREERS ADVISER IS ON HAND TO HELP.

Links to support and guide you in writing your personal statement

-UCAS PS Builder, Worksheet & Tips on how to write your PS



UCAS PS WORKSHEET



UCAS PS BUILDER



How to write my PS



Applying for 2024 entry



MyWoW - Applying for courses



Going to Uni - Essential Guide



Tips for writing your personal statement



PS examples by subject



PS secrets - universities reveal all

- Largs Academy UCAS Guide

- My World of work

- Planitplus Uni and college guide

- The complete University Guide Tips

- Student room – Tips and PS examples by subject

The Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS)

- SAAS is an Executive Agency of the Scottish Government
- They assess applications for living costs and bursaries for eligible students studying in the UK including:

undergraduate

postgraduate

Disabled Student Allowance

Nursing and Midwifery Bursary Scheme

Part-time Fee Grant

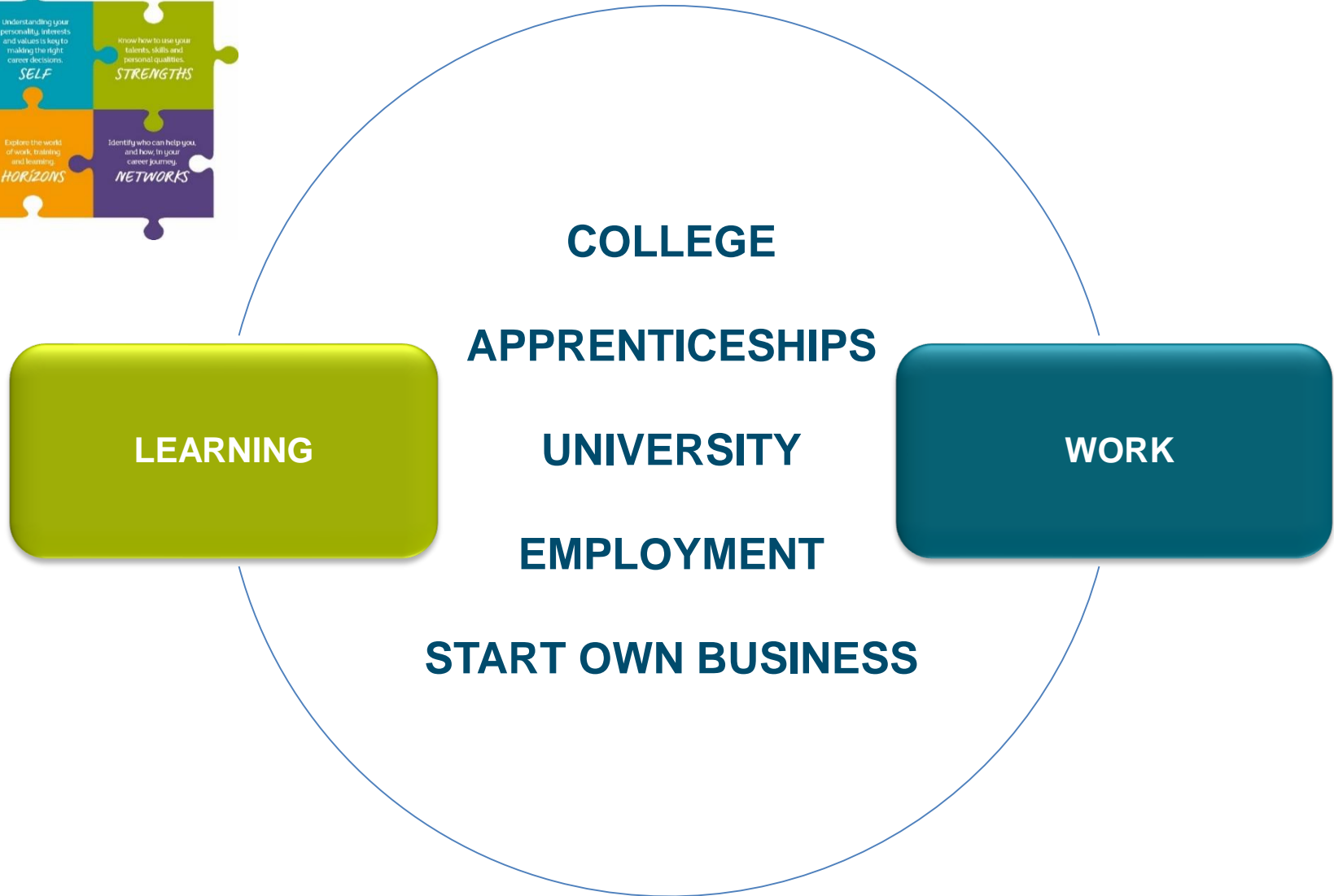
Care Experienced Bursary

<https://www.saas.gov.uk/events/fundingawareness>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/fundingawareness>

Student Information Scotland - Funding, Finance and Student Life

PATHWAYS

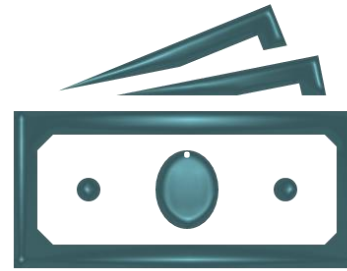


APPRENTICESHIP PATHWAYS

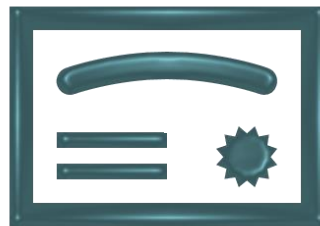
Over 100 different types of Modern Apprenticeship



Earn while you learn. Work & get Qualified



Qualifications SCQF level 5 to SCQF level 12



Get the qualifications and experience employers want or to start your own business



GRADUATE APPRENTICESHIPS



Work-based learning to
masters level

SCQF LEVEL 7-11

WORK

Paid full-time
employment with
learning in the
workplace



STUDY

Access to
university/college
facilities, services &
learning, including
enterprise support



FLEXIBILITY

A flexible entry
point and timetable
with assessments



Designed by
industry for industry

SUPPORT

Both an academic
and workplace
mentor



GRADUATE APPRENTICESHIPS



Accounting



**Business Management
(including Financial Services)**



Civil Engineering: Higher Apprenticeship



Civil Engineering: SCQF level 10



Construction and the Built Environment



IT: Software Development



Cyber Security



Data Science



Early Learning and Childcare



Engineering: Design and Manufacture



Engineering: Instrumentation, Measurement and Control



IT: Management for Business



FIND OUT MORE ON APPRENTICESHIPS

**SPEAK TO A
CAREERS
ADVISER**

Get advice
& support

Explore
your
options

**MY WORLD
OF WORK
.CO.UK**

APPRENTICESHIPS.SCOT
HE Guide on TEAMS
University Websites

Information
& vacancies

**myworldofwork
.co.uk/parents-
carers**

Info & help
for parents
and careers

COLLEGE PATHWAYS - ARTICULATION

In 2021, almost 28% of all first-degree entrants came via college

Over 58% went straight to the 2nd or 3rd year of a Degree

Advanced Entry or Articulation

1+3 route - HNC graduate enters Year 2 of a related degree

2+2 route - HND graduate enters Year 3 of a related degree

- **Formal Articulation Routes or Pathways**

Agreements between colleges and universities connecting HNC/HND's with Advanced Entry to a related degrees

- **Integrated Degrees**

Degree programme where you study part of the course at college and part at uni - you are in a degree from day 1

- **Associate Student Scheme**

Universities may offer this through partner colleges to help prepare HNC/HND students that want to articulate to their university



UNIVERSITY – WIDENING ACCESS

As well as supporting new pathways like Articulation and Graduate Apprenticeships, universities are working to be more accessible

Contextualised Entry

Universities now look at life and learning experience, recognise barriers and offer extra support and/or Adjusted Entry if you are:

- First in your family to attend university
- Coming from a school or area with low university entry rates
- Part of a school pre-university entry programme
- Care experience or a carer
- Impacted by disrupted learning or forced moves (military service, asylum seeker, refugee, estrangement, ill-health)



Pathways Deadlines

- UCAS – October & December
- College – Applications open January 2024 for August starts
- Apprenticeships – start looking now. Most leaver opportunities will be advertised Jan – March
- Work – Start looking now. Start your CV, cover letter.
- **Start planning and preparing now**