



UCAS Personal Statement – 2026 Entry

Applying to University – Personal Statement Tips for 2026 Entry

What's Changed for 2026?

- UCAS has replaced the traditional free-text personal statement with **three structured questions**
- Each answer must be **at least 350 characters**, with a total limit of **4,000 characters**
- Designed to make the process **fairer, clearer, and more focused**

The Three New Questions

1. Why do you want to study this course or subject?
2. How have your studies prepared you for it?
3. What have you done outside education that's relevant?

[How to write your personal statement 2026](#)

Why is the personal statement important?

- Carries weight with universities
- Demonstrates **your** reasons for applying
- Chance to showcase communication and other skills and “sell yourself” to your university choices
- An opportunity to stand out from others with similar grades
- In short its an important selection tool for higher education providers

Tips for Writing a Strong Statement

- **Start early** – draft and revise
- **Be specific** – use examples to show interest and suitability
- **Avoid clichés** – make it personal and authentic
- **Use UCAS resources** – subject-specific guides and examples available

Final Advice

- **Use your voice** – admissions tutors want to hear *your* story
- **Balance academic and personal experiences** (*Roughly 75/25*)
- **Ask for feedback** – from teachers, advisers, or parents
- **Don't panic** – the structure helps guide your writing
- **Attend the PS assembly on 15/9 P2**
- **Speak to your career adviser** for further inspiration – Find me in guidance

Personal statement guides



What to include in your achitecture, planning or building personal statement



What to include in your animal science personal statement



What to include in your art and design personal statement



What to include in your biology personal statement



What to include in your business management personal statement



What to include in your chemistry personal statement



What to include in your computer science personal statement



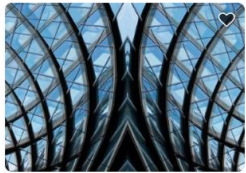
What to include in your dance personal statement

The new personal statement for 2026 entry

Applying for university or college to start your studies in 2026? Find out more about the changes to the personal statement format and tips on what to include.

Feedback

Personal statement guides



What to include in your architecture, planning or building personal statement



What to include in your animal science personal statement



What to include in your art and design personal statement



What to include in your biology personal statement



What to include in your business management personal statement



What to include in your chemistry personal statement



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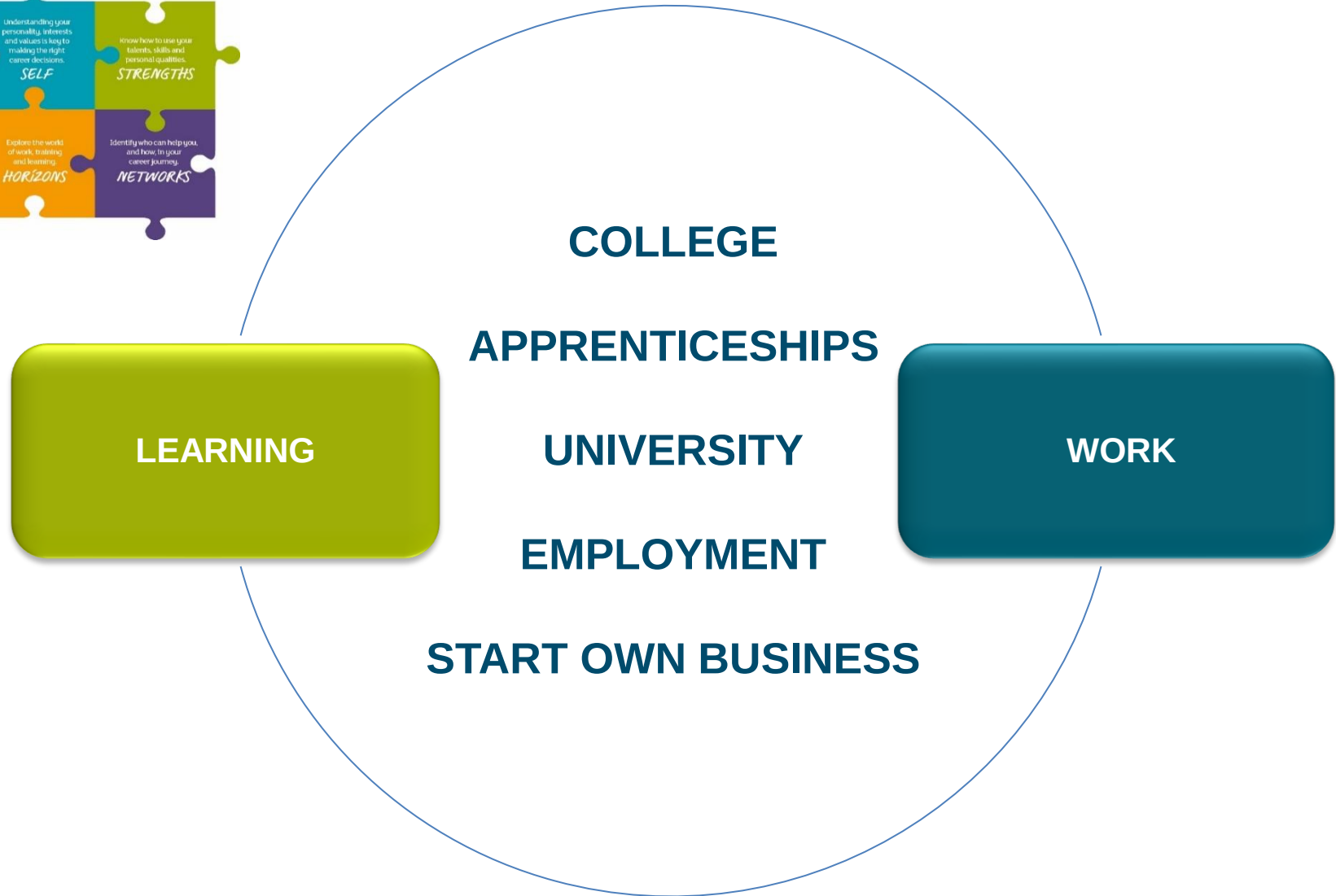


What to include in your dance personal statement



<https://www.ucas.com/applying/applying-to-university/writing-your-personal-statement/the-new-personal-statement-for-2026>

PATHWAYS



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**



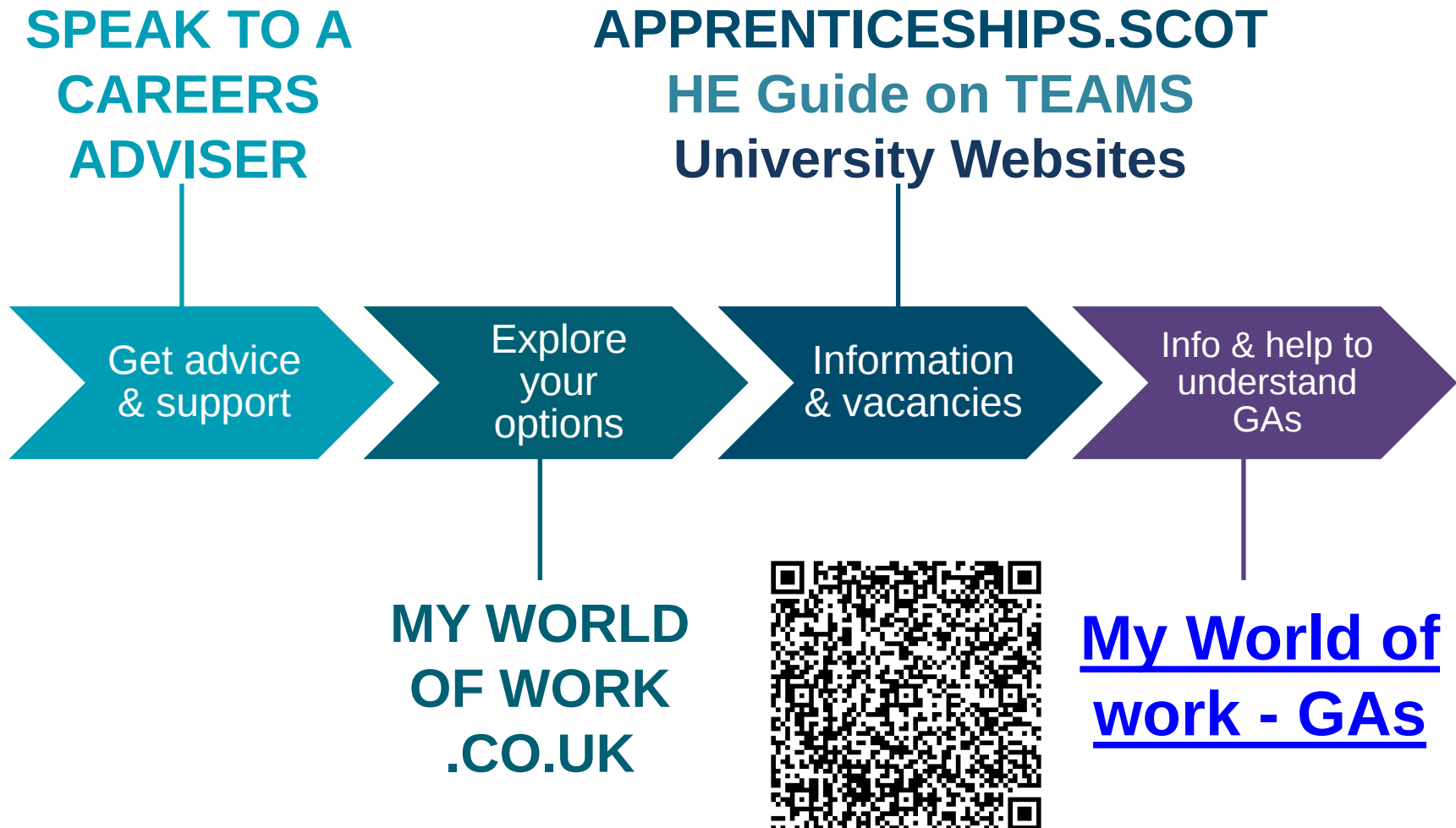
**Engineering:
Instrumentation,
Measurement and
Control**



**IT: Management for
Business**



FIND OUT MORE ON APPRENTICESHIPS



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 Dec/January 2025 for August starts – Speak to Careers Adviser
- 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**
- **Your Careers adviser is available in the guidance office for any advice or support -**

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