

Personal Statements

Survey: Headline stats



1,200 applicants responded to the survey



89% felt that the purpose of the personal statement was extremely clear or clear



75% received a lot of or a fair amount of support with their personal statement



72% overall had a positive experience writing it (21% neutral)



65% were happy with the level of support they received

30% would have liked **more support**

Free text comments - likes

"I feel it allowed students who might have had slightly weaker grades due to bad luck or personal circumstances to showcase their potential outside of plain academics, and demonstrate their potential and passion."

"I think the personal statement is a brilliant idea and even gets the student thinking about why they want to pursue a course in the areas they've selected"

"I liked that the personal statement encouraged me to explore super-curricular further. Without needing to write the personal statement, I would not have explored my subject in the same level of depth, and potentially not chosen the right course, or developed my passion for the subject to the same extent."

"I felt it made the application more personal and about more than my grades because i am so much more than just my grades!"

"I liked that i could use the personal statement to show who i am as a person, rather than just a list of academic achievements. I think it shows that the young people are worth more than just their academics and their unique differences and interests. It gave me a chance to show the universities what is different about me than others and why I should be chosen."

"I just liked that it was one statement for all unis. In my country's app system you have to write one statement for each program and uni and I don't like that the personal statement ends up involving us pandering to the uni."

Sources of support



Teachers were the biggest source of support:
66% received **a lot or a fair amount of support**
from their teachers



Parents/carers ranked third in terms of support
offered – **46%** received **a lot/fair amount of**
support from parents or carers



51% got a lot of or a fair amount of support from
Information/advice from ucas.com



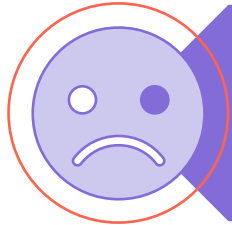
39% told us that their **friends** had given them
support with their personal statement



90% agreed that they understood the purpose of the personal statement



79% agreed that it can be difficult to write a personal statement without support



83% agreed that writing a personal statement can be stressful



75% liked that they only had to write one personal statement for up to five choices



76% disagreed with the statement 'I don't see the point in having a personal statement'



81% agreed that the personal statement allowed them to demonstrate why they'd suit a course