

Personal statement guidance for applicants to PGDE Teacher Education courses in Scotland

The personal statement is a major part of your application and this guidance gives an indication of the information you should include in it. We look for evidence of commitment, motivation and suitability for your chosen Teacher Education programme and we consider your personal statement alongside all other information supplied in your UCAS application when making decisions.

The space available is limited to **4000 characters or 47 lines of print** (including spaces and blank lines). Please therefore be concise, avoiding lists or famous quotations without explaining their relevance in more detail. Be enthusiastic, but be yourself. **Don't** copy another personal statement as it is likely that UCAS will pick up on this and it may lead to your application being declined.

What information should you include?

Below is a rough guide on what you should include in your personal statement and is by no means an exhaustive list. We would strongly advise that you contact the relevant institution/s that you are applying to for further guidance.

1. Why are you applying?

Give details on why you wish to be a teacher and why you think you are suited to the teaching profession. Be specific about why you have chosen your particular Primary/ Secondary subject area.

2. Relevant Work experience with children

Please detail this in chronological order including dates, most recent first, quantifying the numbers of hours spent per week over the number of weeks/months and list the school/s attended e.g. **'1 hour per week for a full school year (Approximately 40 hours total) undertaken in 2013'**. Please also include any other work undertaken with children e.g. Brownies, Scouts, Nursery, After School clubs etc.

3. Reflection on work with children

We expect you to comment and reflect on what you learned during your school work experience in relation to the skills, attributes and the understanding that you have gained from this experience.

4. Understanding of the role of a teacher

Explain what you understand the role of a teacher to be. You can use examples of your experience to underpin this section.

5. Knowledge of Scottish Curriculum for Excellence

Elaborate on your knowledge of the Education system in Scotland and for example the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence.

6. Transferrable skills/Outside interests

Give an indication of your work/life balance by including any long term hobbies or interests you have e.g. playing a musical instrument, drama, sports, Duke of Edinburgh award or any voluntary work you undertake. Explain why this enhances your application to your chosen course.

7. Degree suitability

Briefly explain why the content of your University studies make you a suitable candidate. For Secondary you should clearly indicate the aspects of your degree that meet the specific entry requirements. For Primary, you should indicate the aspects of your degree that cover the range of subject areas relevant to the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence.