

Personal Statement

[www.studential.com](http://www.studential.com) under Postgraduate choose Writing a personal statement

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/642/01>

[www.tcd.ie/careers/students/options/postgraduate/statements.php](http://www.tcd.ie/careers/students/options/postgraduate/statements.php)

### **Dos and don'ts when writing your personal statement**

**Do** Write a list of your ideas before attempting to create the real thing.

**Do** expect to produce several drafts.

**Do** ask people you trust for feedback.

**Do** check university and college prospectuses, websites and — at [ucas.com](http://ucas.com) — Entry Profiles, as they usually tell you the criteria and qualities that they want their students to demonstrate.

**Do** use your best English/Welsh and don't let spelling and grammatical errors spoil your statement.

**Do** be enthusiastic — if you show your interest in the course, it may help you get a place.

**Don't** feel that you need to use elaborate language. If you try too hard to impress with long words that you are not confident using, the focus of your writing may be lost.

**Don't** say too much about things that are not relevant — if you think that you are starting to, take a break and come back to your statement when you feel more focused.

**Don't** lie — if you exaggerate you may get caught out at interview when asked to elaborate on an interesting achievement.

**Don't** rely on a spellchecker as it will not pick up everything — proof-read as many times as possible.

**Don't** leave it to the last minute — your statement will seem rushed and important information could be left out.

**Don't** expect to be able to write your personal statement whilst watching television, texting your friends or surfing the internet — this is your future, so make the most of the opportunity to succeed.

[www.tcd.ie/careers/graduates/advice/cracking\\_postgraduate\\_personal.statements.php](http://www.tcd.ie/careers/graduates/advice/cracking_postgraduate_personal.statements.php)

NCAD Careers Service April 2016

