

# Applying to Universities in the UK

Updated: February 2022



# Section 1

## Research



# The Current Context



[UK Government website](#)

[British Council website](#)

[The Complete University Guide page on International Student fees \(see next slide\)](#)

“... If you’re an EU student living outside the UK you’ll no longer be able to get a tuition fee loan from the UK. You’re also likely to be charged the same tuition fees as other international students.”

However, “UK nationals (or close family members) who live in the EEA may be eligible for home fee status, tuition fee and maintenance support, depending on their residency (see page for details). This applies for any course starting from 1 August 2021 until 1 January 2028 in England.”

Source:

<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/student-advice/finance/are-you-eligible-for-student-finance>

All applications to the UK go through:

UCAS

[UCAS homepage](https://www.ucas.com)



# Not sure what to do?

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# INTERNATIONAL AND EU STUDENTS

Want to study at a UK university? We'll show you why it's a great choice, and how to apply

 Feedback

[International and EU Students page](#)



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# EVENTS AND OPEN DAYS

Explore this **section** 

[Events and Open Days page](#)

Out school is partnered with:



[Unifrog homepage](#)

Complete the <a href="#">Interests quiz</a>	4.1%
Favourite a profile on the <a href="#">Subjects library</a>	4.1%
Complete your first post-school <a href="#">Shortlist</a>	6.1%
Favourite a guide on the <a href="#">Know-how library</a>	4.1%
Complete a shortlist for <a href="#">UK Uni, UK App or College / Sixth form</a>	5.1%
Start to record your <a href="#">Activities</a>	2.0%
Add something to your <a href="#">Locker</a>	2.7%
Complete a <a href="#">Shortlist</a> in a different post-school pathway	5.1%
Favourite a recommendation in the <a href="#">Read, Watch, Listen tool</a>	2.7%
Start to record your <a href="#">Competencies</a>	2.7%
Complete the <a href="#">Personality Quiz</a>	✓ DONE!
Complete at least three post-school <a href="#">Shortlists</a>	5.1%
Record at least 5 <a href="#">Activities</a>	5.1%
Favourite a profile on the <a href="#">Careers library</a>	5.1%

Complete a <a href="#">MOOCs Shortlist</a>	2.0%
Finish recording examples for at least 5 of the 12 key <a href="#">Competencies</a>	5.1%
Start your <a href="#">CV</a>	2.7%
Add info for each section of your <a href="#">CV</a>	5.1%
Get a teacher to add an Interaction for you	✓ DONE!
Get teachers to add examples of at least 3 types of Interaction for you	2.7%
Start your <a href="#">Personal Statement or CA essay, or add an item to the Writing tool</a>	1.0%
Get a teacher to mark your Personal Statement, CA essay or Writing item as 'Finished'	5.1%
Add an Application to your <a href="#">Applications list</a>	4.1%
<a href="#">Write notes</a> for the teachers giving you a Reference or Recommendation	1.7%
Get one of your teachers to start a Subject Reference or Recommendation for you	1.0%
Get more than one Subject Reference or Recommendation marked as finished	4.1%
Get your Overall Reference or Counselor recommendation started	1.7%
Get your Overall Reference or Counselor Recommendation marked as finished	4.1%

## Aspirational (6)

## Solid (46)

## Safe (243)

 History - 3FT BA (Hons)  University of Cambridge RG UCAS Points: 152	 History - 4FT MA (Hons)  University of St Andrews TT UCAS Points: 144	 History - 4FT MA (Hons)  The University of Edinburgh RG UCAS Points: 128-144
 History - 3FT BA (Hons)  Durham University RG UCAS Points: 152	 Ancient History - 4FT MA (Hons)  University of St Andrews TT UCAS Points: 144	 Ancient History - 4FT MA (Hons)  The University of Edinburgh RG UCAS Points: 128-136
 Combined Honours in Social Sciences - 3FT BA (Hons)  Durham University RG UCAS Points: 152	 Modern History - 4FT MA (Hons)  University of St Andrews TT UCAS Points: 144	 History - 3FT BA (Hons)  University of Bristol RG UCAS Points: 128-144
 Liberal Arts - 3FT BA (Hons)  Durham University RG UCAS Points: 152	 Liberal Arts - 3FT BA (Hons)  King's College London, University of London RG UCAS Points: 144	 History with Innovation - 4FT MArts (Hons)  University of Bristol RG UCAS Points: 128-144
 Ancient, Medieval and Modern History - 3FT BA (Hons)  Durham University RG UCAS Points: 152	 Ancient History - 3FT BA (Hons)  Durham University RG UCAS Points: 144	 BA History with Study Abroad - 4FT BA  University of Bristol RG UCAS Points: 128-144
 History - 3FT BA (Hons)  University of Oxford RG UCAS Points: 144	 History - 3FT BA (Hons)  UCL (University College London) RG UCAS Points: 144	 History with Employment Experience - 4FT BA (Hons)  University of Exeter RG UCAS Points: 128-136
	 Ancient History - 3FT BA (Hons)  UCL (University College London) RG UCAS Points: 144	 History with Employment Experience Abroad - 4FT BA (Hons)  University of Exeter RG UCAS Points: 128-136
	 History (with a Year Abroad) - 4FT BA (Hons)  UCL (University College London) RG UCAS Points: 144	 History with Study Abroad - 4FT BA (Hons)  University of Exeter RG UCAS Points: 128-136
	 Liberal Arts - 4FT MLibArts  Queen's University Belfast RG UCAS Points: 144	 History - 3FT BA (Hons)

# Finally, league tables:

Pick a subject area  See what it would be like to study this subject

2022	Institution	Guardian score/100	Satisfied with course	Satisfied with teaching	Satisfied with feedback	Student to staff ratio	Spend per student/10	Average entry tariff	Value added score/10	Career after 15 months	Continuation
1	<a href="#">Hull</a>	100	98.8	97.6	88.2	18.9	n/a	133	7	n/a	95.2
2	<a href="#">Birmingham</a>	82.4	59.5	84.8	54	10.5	7	153	8	n/a	n/a
3	<a href="#">UEA</a>	80.3	77	88.1	69	n/a	10	126	5	67	94.8
4	<a href="#">Leicester</a>	78.6	88.7	90	70.9	10.5	5	125	5	66	97.9
5	<a href="#">Sussex</a>	76.7	83.3	89	67.7	15.8	5	135	7	n/a	96.9
6	<a href="#">Swansea</a>	72	96.2	97.5	85.2	17.2	6	116	2	n/a	96.2
7	<a href="#">Manchester</a>	54.6	84.8	95.6	72.1	20.9	6	139	6	n/a	93.5
8	<a href="#">Kent</a>	42.7	81.3	85.4	57.8	18.8	3	102	8	n/a	n/a
9	<a href="#">Nottingham</a>	36.3	84.7	91.7	64.7	20.4	4	131	2	75	96.4

[The Complete University Guide](#)  
[The Guardian](#)

# Section 2

## Application

# There are two key deadlines for UCAS:

- Mid-October for Oxford and Cambridge (Oxbridge), and for most courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science, and dentistry
- Mid-January for all other courses

[When to Apply page on UCAS](#)

# What do you need to do by these dates?

- Fill in your UCAS **online application form**, which includes your personal details, qualifications, education history and course choices.
- Write a max. 4,000 character **personal statement** to demonstrate you'll be a good student.
- Request 4 **references** from your teachers, which will then be collected and synthesised into one holistic reference by a member of the university counselling team
- Request **predicted grades** from all your teachers.
- Pay your **application fee** online (currently £26.50 for 2 or more choices)

[When to Apply page on UCAS](#)

# Oxbridge Candidates



[Oxbridge Applications website \(including some free resources and a blog\)](#)

# Recap

- Think about what you want to do.
- Research your options using unifrog and other platforms.
- Carefully consider the implications of Brexit.
- Email [university@csianglo.org](mailto:university@csianglo.org) with specific questions once you've done your research.



# Writing your university personal statement

# What is the point of a personal statement?

It is your chance to communicate to your chosen universities:

- Your passion for the subject or field, including specific areas or topics you're interested in;
- How you've made an effort to engage with your subject already;
- What you've learned or how it's developed your understanding of your area so far;
- What you want to do in the future.

You are to create a narrative, persuading them that every element of your life points to you being suited to studying this particular subject.

# It's personal

It's the only part of the application that's really **YOU**. We don't want to give you a specific formula as this is about showing your voice.

That said, there are some common errors students make which you should avoid.

This presentation will give you a **ten step guide** on how to write your personal statements.

# STEP 1

Think about **what** you want to study.

Note that you only get one personal statement, so it needs to be appropriate for every course you apply to. If you're planning on applying for drama and astrophysics, it will be very difficult to write a statement.

## STEP 2

Decide **where** you are applying (five establishments maximum if applying in the UK).

Figure out what your courses all have in common. This is especially important if you are planning to apply to different courses. This can include what is studied and what skills you will be developing.

## STEP 3

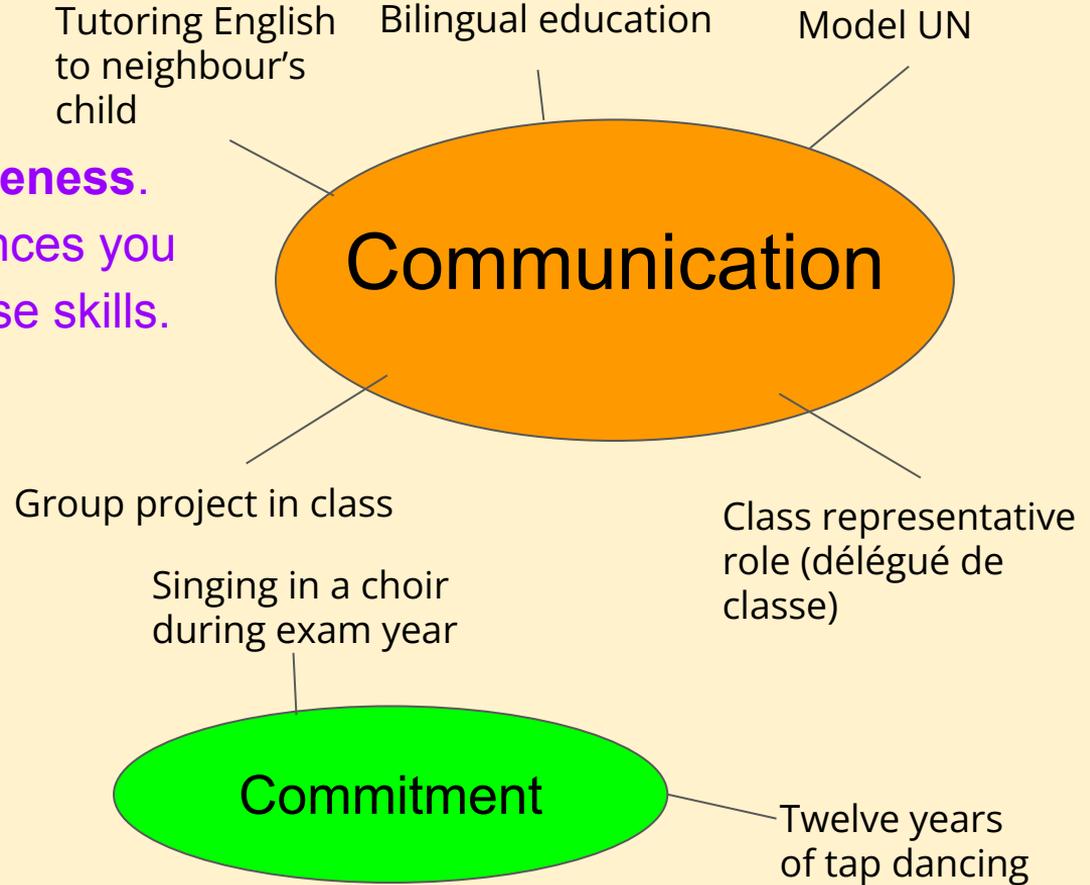
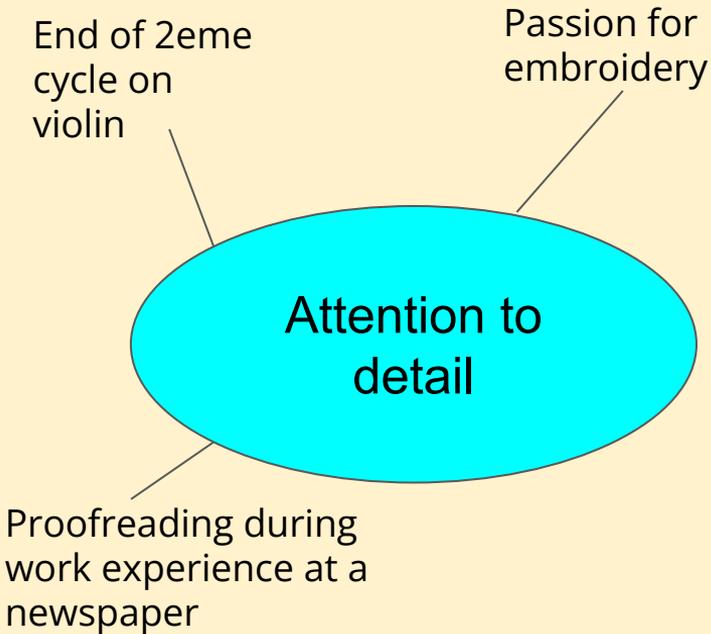
Research the skills needed to succeed in that subject. Make a list of everything you have done related to the subject.

NOTE: If you have already studied it at school, then great, although you still need to prove that you have gone beyond (wider reading, activities, events, work experience etc).

If you haven't studied a subject before, show that you have the **interchangeable skills** needed and have some understanding of what the subject really involves.

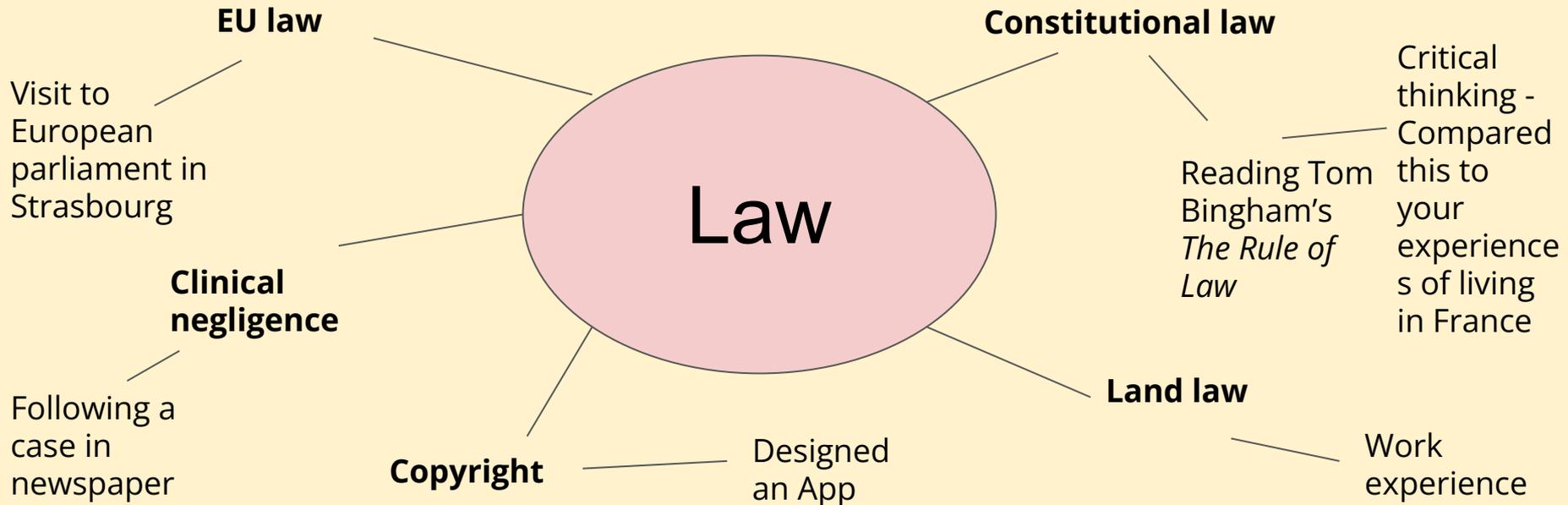
# STEP 4

Complete your **Islands of Awesomeness**.  
Highlight skills needed and experiences you have had where you have used those skills.



# STEP 4 continued

You can also use this method to explore the subject you are applying for in detail to show you are interested in more than just one topic.



# STEP 5

Use the **ABC structure** to develop your 'islands'.

**Action** - introduce the scenario, provide context about what YOUR role was and what you did

**Benefit** - what did you learn from this experience?

**Course** - how does it relate to the course(s) you are applying for?

**GOLDEN RULE: 'Show, don't tell'**

# Avoid cliches like the plague

I love / I adore / I relish... no

My passion

Avoid phrases like 'I have always' or 'from a young age' or anything similar. Focus on a particular thing that interests you about your chosen field.



# STEP 6

Start to structure your personal statement. Use a five-paragraph model following the **75/25 rule**.

**1. Introduction** - why you, why this course. 2-3 lines max (**TOP TIP: Write this last**) Why do you want to study the course? What interests you about the subject area? What aspirations do you have after uni?

## **2. Academic achievements/subjects studied at BAC**

Write about your academic achievements. What academic skills and knowledge do you have that will prepare you to succeed in your chosen subject?

## **3. Work experience/employment/volunteering**

Write about any skills that you have gained from work experience, employment and/or volunteering opportunities and how these experiences prepare you for university study

(75%  
of PS)

## **4. Extra-Curricular activities/awards**

Mention any other achievements or extra-curricular activities that demonstrate you have the relevant skills for the course you are applying to. (25% of PS)

**5. Conclusion** - Finish with a brief summary. Why should you be offered a place?

# STEP 7

## Edit!

Go through your personal statement reading it out loud and make sure you are writing as sparingly as possible to make your point clearly. Get a couple of people you trust to read through it if possible.

*Here are some top writing tips from the late US Supreme Court Justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg:*

“Never use four words when three will do”

“Read it out loud”

“Start writing and edit ruthlessly”



# STEP 8

Send your completed first drafts to [university@csianglo.org](mailto:university@csianglo.org) for us to provide feedback and comments.

GMAIL

SEND EMAIL



# STEP 9

Make your modifications based on our comments. Don't be afraid to **kill your darlings!**



# STEP 10

Send us your second drafts. Make any modifications needed (there should be fewer). When you have finished, upload onto UCAS plenty of time before the deadline.

**Remember to back up your work!**

# What to avoid

**Cliche phrases:** things like 'Since I've been a child' and the P-word (aka 'passion') - unoriginal.

**Famous quotes:** admissions tutors want to see what **you** think. Avoid them.

**Complicated vocabulary:** if you can say something in five simple words rather than ten, do that.

**Humour:** join an improv group but don't use your UCAS statement to make jokes.

**Your parents' / cat's / friend's life stories:** you can refer to past events as a motivation but only in 1-2 lines. Focus on using the ABC structure.