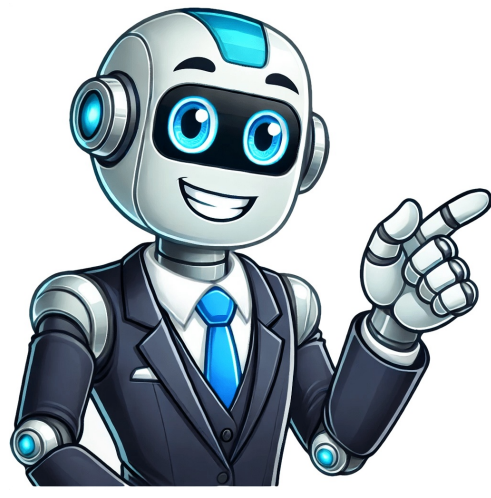


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Personal statement masters sample

If you are considering postgraduate study, you will need to think about writing an application that demonstrates why you are the right candidate for the course and their university. This is where your personal statement comes in. You'll already have written a personal statement for your undergraduate application, so the concept should be familiar. However, there are some things you should be aware of when it comes to writing specifically for postgraduate study. In this guide, we'll explain how to write a stand-out Masters personal statement and provide you with some valuable insights from our Master's Recruitment Manager Danielle, here at Warwick Business School (WBS). What is a Masters personal statement? An MSc personal statement, also known as a 'statement of purpose', supports your application to study a postgraduate course at university. It should highlight your key skills and experience whilst demonstrating your understanding of the course and conveying your academic skills and interests. From her experience in the Recruitment and Business Development team at WBS, Danielle gives her take on a personal statement: Your personal statement is your opportunity to sell yourself and differentiate yourself from any other applicant, share your passion for joining WBS and link your life experiences and skills to how you could contribute to a cohort. How long should a Masters personal statement be? A personal statement for postgraduate study should fit within two pages of A4. Whilst you won't be penalised if it is slightly longer, you should always make sure the content is relevant and doesn't repeat information elsewhere in your application. What do you need to prepare before writing a Masters personal statement? Before writing your personal statement for postgraduate study, there are a few things you should consider. Research your options Take the time to read through course pages and brochures. You'll find in-depth information on what the course involves and how it might align with your career goals. Danielle explains how understanding what the course involves is key in demonstrating your suitability and passion for a course: All of our course webpages feature extensive information on the course modules, so take the time to show you've done your research in your personal statement. Your personal statement is your chance to relate yourself to our core values and demonstrate what a strong candidate you will be for one of our programmes. Ensure you also use this as an opportunity to link our programme to your future career. Course titles should not be taken at face value. Whilst some universities will have courses with the same titles, the content will differ. You need to demonstrate you understand what the course entails and why you want to apply for a particular course as. Danielle adds: Take time to look at the content of the course you are applying for, although course titles may be the same at different universities the course content can be different. Do your research and demonstrate this in your personal statement, showing how invested you are in studying at WBS. Consider what you want from your studies The range of choice when it comes to postgraduate study is vast, and it can feel overwhelming when deciding which course is right for you. Whilst opinions from your friends and family are important, they shouldn't be the ultimate deciding factor when choosing a course. Ultimately you need to consider what you really want and whether it aligns with your career goals. Begin to prepare your application Once you have decided which course you would like to apply for and you've ensured you meet the entry requirements, you will need to begin preparing your application. This includes collecting the correct documentation such as a CV, transcript, personal statement, and reference. What should you include in a Master's personal statement? Recruitment and admissions teams receive thousands of applications each year so it is important that your personal statement is to the point and demonstrates what they are looking for in their students. Danielle gives some insight into what our recruitment team looks for in a personal statement for a Master's degree: Aim to keep your personal statement to the point by making sure you answer the following questions, addressing the key points our Selection Committee will be looking for: Why have you selected this course? What are your motivating factors? How do you see this course benefitting your career plans? What will you contribute to your cohort? As well as addressing these key questions, you should also include the following: Academic achievements You need to demonstrate how your undergraduate study has prepared you for a postgraduate course. You can do this by highlighting specific achievements, projects and pieces of work as well as mentioning any particular topics that interest you. Professional achievements If you completed any professional work experience alongside your studies, it is a good idea to mention them here. Highlight any duties, tasks and responsibilities you had to demonstrate what you gained from this work experience. Relevant extracurricular activities Including information about relevant extracurricular activities you are involved in can help to give a more rounded view of you as a person. This could include volunteering opportunities and any meaningful hobbies you have. Transferable skills Your transferable skills should be highlighted throughout your personal statement. The types of things you could include are presentation skills, communication skills, analytical thinking and time management. Consider what you can bring to lectures and workshops. For example, if your course involves a lot of group work, use an example where you demonstrate your experience with this. What should you avoid when writing a Masters personal statement? Repetition of information When submitting both a CV and personal statement it can be easy to fall into the trap of just repeating the same information across both documents. Your personal statement is an opportunity for you to reflect and expand on what you have stated on your CV, rather than repeating the same information. Not providing enough context Simply listing your achievements without providing context will not prove to the recruitment teams that you are the right candidate for the course. Provide hard evidence to back up the statements you make and try to give two or three in-depth examples, rather than several weak answers. Not tailoring your application to the specific university or course Recruitment and admissions teams are keen to hear why you have chosen a specific course and why you want to attend their university. You need to provide clear examples of what excites you about their institution and how you can align with their particular values. What do recruitment teams look for in a Master's personal statement? University recruitment teams and selection committees review thousands of applications each year. To ensure your application stands out, you must show that you have taken the time to prepare and research your chosen university. Recruitment teams want to see your passion for the subject and motivations for joining their institution. Detailing your experience and the skills you can bring will help to emphasise this. Danielle also suggests not overlooking the obvious when it comes to writing a personal statement: It may sound simple but the first answer to this question is that the Selection Committee wants to see a well written, clearly structured personal statement which demonstrates good preparation and research. What else do I need to include with my Master's application? The documents you need to include in your application may vary by institution and course. But generally, as well as your personal statement, you will also need to include: Your CV Academic and professional references Copies of your undergraduate degree certificate and academic transcripts A list of final year modules if you're still studying for an undergraduate degree A research proposal (not all courses will require this) If you are an international student, there are some additional things you will need to provide including: When are the deadlines for Master's applications? Deadlines for Master's programmes vary quite widely between courses and universities. Information on specific deadlines can be found on their respective course pages and postgraduate brochures. You should aim to make an application early in the cycle to ensure there are still places available on the course. Deadlines for scholarships and external scholarships can also vary, so if you wish to apply for these, you will also have to factor in these deadlines. Frequently asked questions Is there an interview for Master's programmes? At WBS, there are no interviews for MSc courses. Instead, all decisions are made based on the application you submit. Your undergraduate transcript will be reviewed in depth along with your CV and personal statement. How many Master's can you apply for? If you are applying to a UK university, you can apply for as many courses and universities as you like. However, you should not over-stretch yourself and you should only apply for courses that you are really passionate about. Writing an appropriately tailored application can be time-consuming and attempting to write too many could jeopardise your chances of being successful. Do you have to pay for your Master's application? We require an application fee of £75 to cover administrative costs. If you're applying to multiple Warwick courses, remember each course will warrant its own application fee. How do I apply for a Master's degree? We have our own application system, and you can find linked 'how to apply' sections on all of our course pages. ----- Discover our range of MSc courses at Warwick Business School Designed for the change makers of the future, our postgraduate courses will drive you to learn, question, debate and make an impact on the world around you. Our challenging and rewarding courses will provide you with everything you need to take your personal and professional skills to the next level. Postgraduate Business and Management Personal Statement Example 2 I believe I have the intellectual ability to complete a Masters Degree and I have illustrated my drive, ambition and dedication to do this in many ways. I am capable of working as part of a team as I have developed the initiative and ability to follow instructions and have the capacity of working with others. Postgraduate Art & Design Personal Statement Example Although Chinese woodblock printing has a tradition of 2000 years, Chinese print artists have been absent from the international art scene for decades. Over the last years a few exhibitions about modern Chinese printmaking took place outside China, but some major exhibitions at such renowned museums like the British Museum would probably lead to a breakthrough in the international art scene...Postgraduate Logistics & Supply Chain Personal Statement Example My decision to get a Masters Degree in Logistics and Supply Chain Management, at this point in my career, is precisely based on a question 'Where I would be in the next five years'. Though a five year of professional work experience in the field of Logistics and Operations has given me the vast knowledge and command to cope with modern business challenges as a manager, yet I feel that current fast growing and competitive business world need vital strategic thinking and an adept to change...Postgraduate Public Health Personal Statement Example 2 At an early age, I realised that I had more questions than answers about life and living things. A growing interest in understanding the origin, growth, structure, and function of living creatures led me to major in biology with no certain career plan in mind...Postgraduate Management Personal Statement Example Since I was a little girl, I view the world differently. Instead of realistic, I would picture things in their aesthetic form. For me leaves are not just greens. If you look properly, they sway delightfully following the rhythm of winds...Postgraduate Medicine Personal Statement Example Quite simply it is my curious nature which has always underpinned my desire to study medicine; the sheer complexity of both the human body and its healing processes have always fascinated me and, during my time in 6th form and subsequently while studying for my BSc...Postgraduate Linguistics Personal Statement Example My interest in linguistics was gradually shaped throughout my life by all the different ways in which I have experienced languages: as a learner, translator, and as a teacher. However, it was the times spent living in Russia and later in the UK that made me fully understand that language can be a means of conveying much more than just our thoughts...Postgraduate Pharmacy Personal Statement Example I am interested in the Masters of Pharmacy (MPharm) Programme because I am interested in the modules on which it is based. I want to do the MPharm programme so as to extend my knowledge in Medicines. I would like to get a deeper understanding of how to formulate and administer drugs safely...Postgraduate Human Resource Management Personal Statement Example Pursuing a masters degree is a responsibility I owe to myself as well as a commitment I have to others. I refer to it as a responsibility because I have a proactive outlook on life, which makes me actively seek and go after the things that I want to accomplish in life...Postgraduate Drama Therapy Personal Statement Example I have sat in audiences at the theatre and felt a sense of freedom. At times of stress I played my flute until day turned to night. Painting offers me a window into my imagination and opens a door to escapism...Postgraduate Music School Personal Statement Example Performing and teaching euphonium has been my dream since I was young. I had great fortune to be the first euphonium major in Taiwan. This wonderful opportunity helped me to have a unique musical career as an undergraduate student because I gained professional experience teaching and performing domestically and internationally...Postgraduate Psychology Personal Statement Example 1 My enthusiasm to study psychology began as a child due to living with an alcoholic. Through observing and being around someone with such a social problem I was gaining first hand experience of what it was like to live with someone with an addiction...Postgraduate Computer Science Personal Statement Example 1 I want to study computer science because it pairs together two wonderful things; mathematics and technology. Although I have enjoyed working with computers since a young age, it wasn't until I began studying decision mathematics that I decided this is the field I want to study at university...Postgraduate Psychology Personal Statement Example 2 Although I have only studied psychology for a relatively short period of time, I have enjoyed the subject thoroughly and have been engaged in intriguing topics such as memory and infant attachment. I originally intended to study psychology during my college years but, unfortunately, my university didn't have a psychology department...Postgraduate Chemistry Personal Statement Example 1 Chemistry fascinates me, both purely academically and in its varied and massively important applications. That interactions at the subatomic level can have such wide ranging impacts, both theoretical and practical, is astounding...Postgraduate Medicine Personal Statement Example My conviction for medicine has apply followed a certain period of introspection. A recent family visit to South Africa encouraged thoughtful consideration of my reasons for applying to medical school, and also granted the opportunity to explore healthcare practice in my home country. PhD Personal Statement Example 1 I would like to pursue a Doctoral Degree in Child and Family Development from the University of Georgia. I am currently obtaining a masters degree in Gerontology at Miami University of Ohio and I believe that looking at the older population in a family context gives a detailed insight into individuals' lives and that of their families...Postgraduate International Marketing Personal Statement Example Businesses are woven into every part of our lives and marketing plays a key role in influencing our decisions. By understanding and developing relationships with consumers, businesses can be less obtrusive and more enriching to our lives; this in turn will grow more sustainable businesses...Postgraduate Biotechnology Personal Statement Example There is nothing better than utilising your passion for something, to assist the people and contribute to the life. The image of a researcher, who performed experiments, discovering a problem solution, is engraved inside me since my childhood, arousing a desire to be a researcher myself...Postgraduate International Relations Personal Statement Example The study of conflicts, international relations and politics could essentially be seen as understanding the way different actors relate to each other. It therefore holds the potential to polarise but also to include and encourage co-operation, which summarises my ideas, thoughts and hopes as to why I wish to pursue this interest...Postgraduate International Security Personal Statement Example Super-hero, fireman, princess, yet? None of these were ever my dream job when I was a child. I wanted to be an airline pilot, then an astronaut, and I still want to work in this field. I am currently a student at IEP Bordeaux, and I am excited to apply to the PSIA Master in International Security in order to go into work in the aeronautical or aerospace field...Civil Engineering Personal Statement Example (Postgraduate) Civil engineering has the power to influence the world around us and better the lives of others. I am interested in engineering due to its creativity to find innovative solutions, as well as the practical skills to implement the designs into a reality.Postgraduate Chemistry Personal Statement Example 2 Chemistry is a scientific discipline that captivates me because of its ever-growing and academically challenging nature. Since learning about water filtration at GCSE, to the mechanisms for the synthesis of organic compounds at A-level, I have always been intrigued by the theory and application of chemistry...Postgraduate Chemistry Personal Statement Example 3 I've always been fascinated by science and more recently I have developed a passion for organic chemistry when I purchased a Molymod set and began exploring the molecular structures of compound and understanding how functional groups influence their chemical and physical properties...Postgraduate Medical Microbiology Personal Statement Example Southampton University hosts the national biofilms innovation centre and fellows linked to this lectured me on their most recent findings within my biofilms and microbial communities module. I was captivated by the module content and enjoyed building upon my second-year module, medical microbiology...Postgraduate Personal Statement Example: Computer Science Although it's been a while since I graduated, the passion to acquire knowledge has never ceased. Being a STEM educator, I had the privilege to constantly interact with students and learning community, who gave insights to look onto the latest trends in the field of science, technology and mathematics education...Data Science Personal Statement Example Ever since the commencement of high school studies, I was keen to know application of mathematics in factuality. Its abstract nature intrigued me to question my teachers about relevance and usefulness to mankind...Postgraduate Adult Nursing Studies Personal Statement Example Nursing is a profession I have always looked upon with respect. I believe that the role of a nurse can be very challenging and hectic at times, as well as rewarding and fulfilling. In my opinion a person who is willing to become a nurse need to have very good interpersonal skills, be a good listener, empathetic, eager to learn and strive to improve themselves...Supply Chain Management (MSc) My decision to pursue the Master of Science in Supply Chain Management, at this point in my career, has been driven precisely by desire and ambition. My desire to comprehend topics revolving around Supply Chain Management and the ambition to achieve the level of Supply Chain Manager that I have always set my eyes on since back in my undergraduate daysMSc Data Science Personal Statement Example In the recent decade, the function of machine-generated intelligence in supplementing judgments has been more visible. It is reasonable to expect that in a few years, humans' role in decision-making processes will be limited to selecting the best possibilities from a collection of outputs supplied by computers... If you're applying for a grad course that requires a personal statement (sometimes also called a 'statement of purpose'), it can be difficult to know where to start and what to include. Read on for tips from some of our masters' students about their process and what they found helpful.1. Before you startThe academic work is the most important reason why we're here, but that also translates into work experiences, internships, volunteering. I think a big part of the personal statement is crafting that narrative of academic self that fits alongside your professional experiences, to give that greater picture of who you are as an academic.Lauren (MSc Modern Middle Eastern Studies)Start by thinking about the skills, knowledge and interests you've acquired over time and how the course at Oxford will take them forward.Your storyYour statement is the story you want to tell about yourself and your academic work to the department you are applying to.Most of your application and its supporting documents communicate plain facts about your academic career so far. Your personal statement is your best opportunity to put these facts into context and show assessors how you've progressed and excelled.Make sure you highlight evidence of your achievements (a high grade in a relevant area, an award or scholarship, a research internship).Presenting yourselfWhen I was writing my personal statement, I went onto my course website. I looked at what they emphasised and what kind of students they were looking for, and I wrote about my experiences based on that.Kayla (MSc in Clinical Embryology)Make it easy for an assessor to see how you meet the entry requirements for the course (you can find these on each course page).Don't make any assumptions about what Oxford is looking for!Get to know your departmentYou want to study this particular subject and you want to study at Oxford (you're applying here, so we know that!) but why is Oxford the right place for you to study this subject? What interests or qualities of the academic department and its staff make it attractive to you?Use your academic department's website for an overview of their research, academic staff and course information (you'll find a link to the department's own website on each course page).I said, 'why do I actually want to be here? What is it about being at Oxford that's going to get me to what I want to do?'Sarah (Bachelor of Civil Law)Talk it outTalking to others about your statement can be a great way to gather your ideas and decide how you'd like to approach it. Sarah even managed to get benefit out of this approach by herself:'I spent a lot of time talking out loud. My written process was actually very vocal, so I did a lot of talking about myself in my room.'2. The writing processKnow your formatMake sure you've read all the guidance on the How to Apply section of your course page, so you know what's needed in terms of the word count of the final statement, what it should cover and what it will be assessed for. This should help you to visualise roughly what you want to end up with at the end of the process.Make a startWhen it comes to writing your personal statement, just getting started can be the hardest part.One good way to get around writer's block is to just put it all down on the page, like Mayur.First - write down anything and everything. In the first round, I was just dumping everything - whatever I've done, anything close to computer science, that was on my personal statement.Mayur (MSc Computer Science)You'll be editing later anyway so don't let the blank page intimidate you - try writing a little under each of the following headings to get started.areas of the course at Oxford that are the most interesting to youwhich areas you've already studied or had some experience inwhat you hope to use your Oxford course experience for afterwards.3. Finishing upGet some feedbackOnce you've got a draft of about the right length, ask for feedback on what you've written. It might take several drafts to get it right.This could involve getting in touch with some of your undergraduate professors to ask them to read your draft and find any areas which needed strengthening.You could also show it to people who know you well, like family or friends.Because they're the first people to say, 'Who is that person?' You want the people around you to recognise that it really sounds like you. It can be scary telling family and friends you're applying for Oxford, because it makes it real, but be brave enough to share it and get feedback on it.Sarah (Bachelor of Law)Be yourselfFinally - be genuine and be yourself. Make sure your personal statement represents you, not your idea about what Oxford might be looking for.We have thousands of students arriving every year from a huge range of subjects, backgrounds, institutions and countries (you can hear from a few more of them in our My Oxford interviews).Get moving on your application todayTo find out more about supporting documents and everything else you need to apply, read your course page and visit our Application Guide.