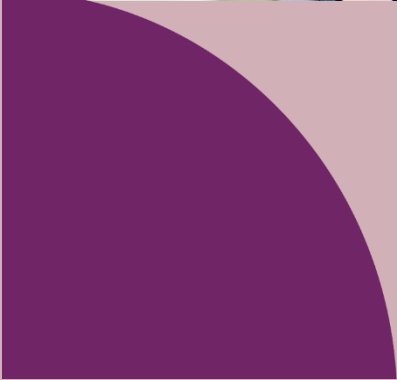




Durham
University

Inspiring the extraordinary



National
Leader

Top 5 in
the UK



World
Class

Top 80 in
the World



Teaching
Excellence

Gold status
for teaching

TEF Gold

A gold-rated
University

Unique
Student
Experience

17 colleges



Your Application

Online applications via
UCAS

15th October

15th January

5 universities

1 personal statement

4000 characters



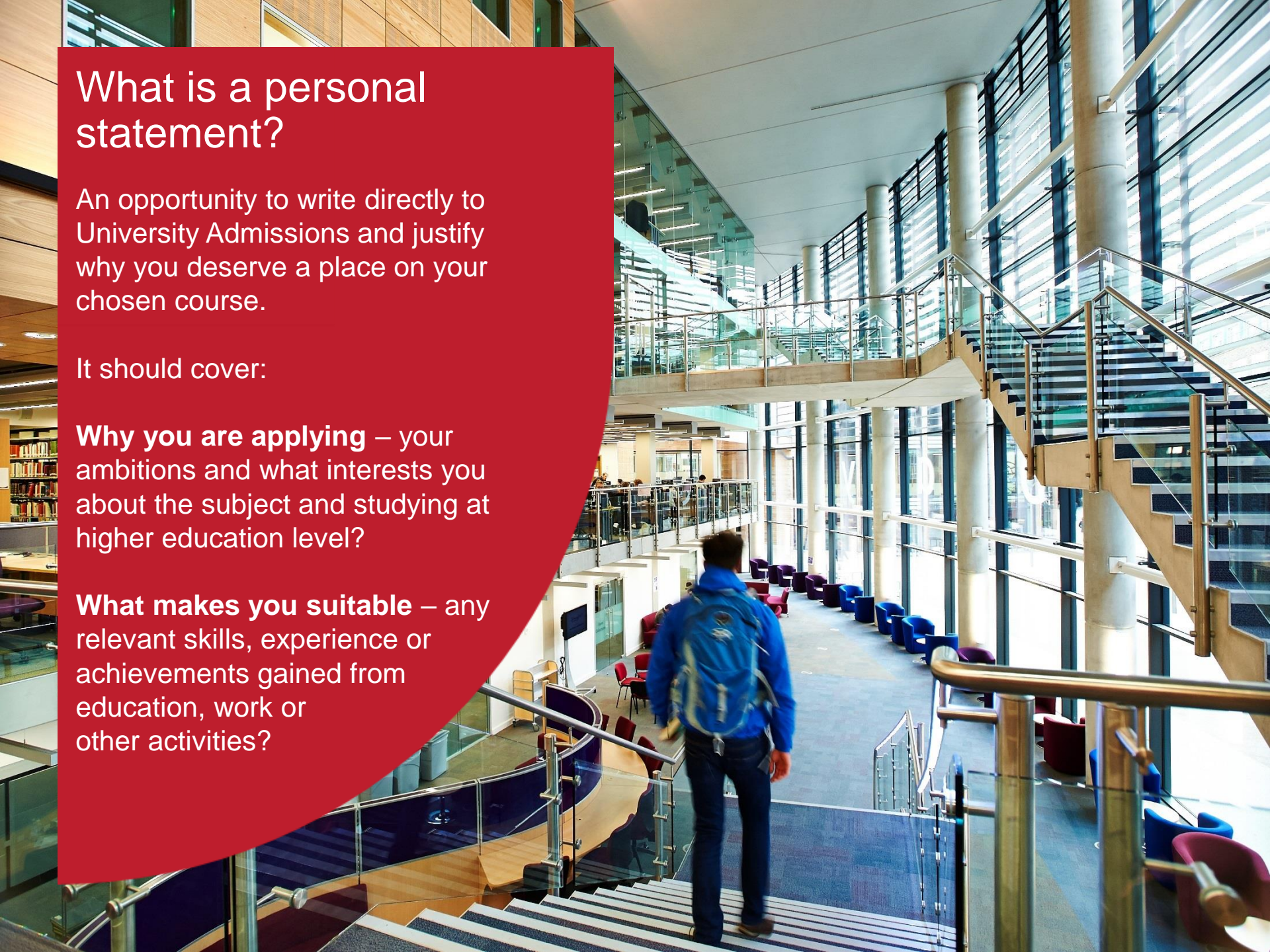
What is a personal statement?

An opportunity to write directly to University Admissions and justify why you deserve a place on your chosen course.

It should cover:

Why you are applying – your ambitions and what interests you about the subject and studying at higher education level?

What makes you suitable – any relevant skills, experience or achievements gained from education, work or other activities?



Why does it matter?

We have limited information on applicants

- Durham only interviews for Primary Education & Foundation Courses
- We want to know about the person behind the grades

Competitive courses

- High number of applications for limited course places means there is competition
- Students with similar academic profiles
- Your opportunity to stand out from the crowd



Reasons for an unsuccessful application

Predicted Achievement	The predicted grades were not as strong as those on successful applications, or did not meet the minimum requirements.
Personal Statement	The Personal Statement was not as strong overall as other personal statements on successful applications.
Competition	Admissions is a comparative and competitive process. Unfortunately, though the application was strong, it was not considered to be as strong as those applications that were successful.
Achieved Results	The previous qualifications listed were not as strong as those offered by other applicants, or did not meet our minimum entry requirements.
Critical Engagement	In our opinion, the personal statement and application overall did not sufficiently evidence sufficient reflection or critical analysis of the subject.
Fit for Course	The application did not evidence the right level of understanding of or commitment to the course as it is offered at Durham.

What do we see?



Personal details



Academic profile



Personal statement



Teacher reference

Durham University
Bill Bryson Library

Structure

80:20 – Subject Specific/ General Information

Why do you want to study this subject?

What have you done in the past that makes you suitable to study the subject?

How has this prepared you for university study?

Critical engagement with an area of your subject.

What else have you done to develop skills for higher education?





Why?



Knowledge of the subject area

Why does it interest you?

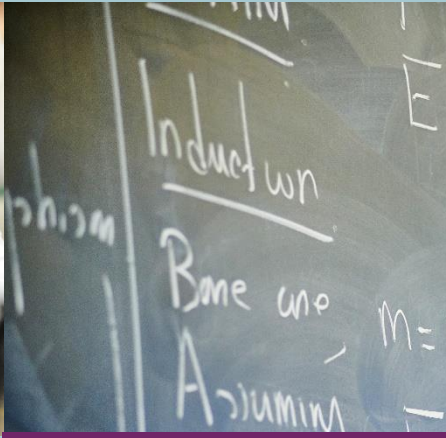
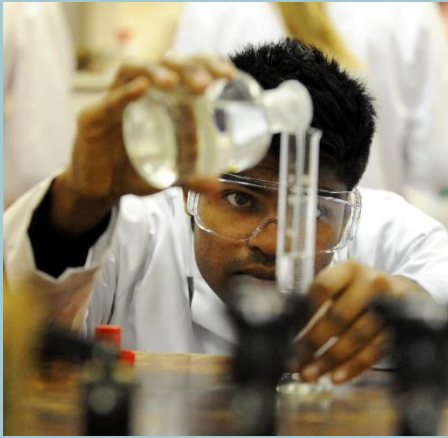
What interests you the most?

Where could it lead?

Enthusiasm

Potential

Demonstrate
critical
engagement



Evidence

Personal Experience

Year out

Independent study & research

Extra-curricular interests

Project work

Voluntary work

Work experience (law, teaching)

Books, newspapers, journals, blogs

Television

programmes/documentaries



Everything Else...

Hobbies, leisure activities, sports, arts, music

Extra-curricular activities

Responsibilities

Awards & Achievements

Extenuating Circumstances: include in reference & report to exam boards

It's about what makes **you who you are**



Durham Substitute Statement

If the course at Durham is different to your other choices

Advised for Combined Honours courses

Submit a statement directly to Durham

Upload a MS Word document to our website within 3 days of submitting to UCAS

Same parameters as UCAS statement – 4000 characters



Top Tips!

Don't try to be funny

Be mindful how you frame your opinion

Don't mention individual institutions

Don't write a chronological history

Don't start with a quotation

Be original - avoid generalisations

Be specific; use examples & give evidence!

Relevant hobbies & interests

Your aptitude, not why it's worth studying

Critical analysis!



Plagiarism

Similarity detection system is used

Must be authentic
If you submit a plagiarised statement, your application may be ***rejected*** instantly

Our Advice

Every form is read at Durham

It's not an exact science

Get as much advice as possible

Universities are looking for potential

Structure, spelling and grammar

Draft and re-draft!

Start now

It's personal

dur.ac.uk/study/ug/apply



Durham
University

Order your prospectus:
dur.ac.uk/study/prospectus

Come to an Open Day:
20 & 21 Sep 2019
29 Jun & 4 July 2020



Any questions?
dur.ac.uk/study/askus



#DUinspire