CRIC Guide to Personal Statements

What is a personal statement?

A personal statement is a short testimonial, composed by you, which provides us with more information about you than just a list of your qualifications and work experience.

How long should my personal statement be?

Personal statements should be no less than 500 words, up to a maximum of 1000 words, or two A4 pages in standard font.

What should I say in my personal statement?

Your personal statement is personal to you and intended to reflect your own situation. However, there are certain areas that we need you to cover. These are listed below:

<u>What are your motivations for your chosen studies?</u>

In this section you should address the following questions and areas;

a) Why do you want to study in the UK rather than any other country?
b) Why does this subject and course interest you?
c) Why do you think CRIC and ARU are the best place for your studies, as opposed to other institutions? Did you consider any other courses or institutions?
d) What will you do when you finish this course and how will the course support your future plans?
e) What was your most previous qualification, where did you study it and what have you been doing since you finished it? * If the gap between your last course and your chosen CRIC course is more than a couple of months, we will expect you to have been doing something useful since then. This might be voluntary work, a paid job or short courses. If you previously failed a course, we will need you to explain why this was and why you will be able to perform better at CRIC and ARU.
f) Where will you live when you study here?

Why are you the right person for this course?

This is your chance to demonstrate that you would be a suitable and good student for the course. For example, if you have applied to study Business Management, tell us how studying this subject will benefit you in the future, what career you are interested in, and why business interests you.

Also in this section, you could tell us about your academic studies, your interests outside of school/college, any relevant work experience, and any other information that you think might be helpful in showing us that you are a committed and knowledgeable student.

How will you contribute to this course and to student life?

In this section, you could tell us what makes you an interesting and unique person? You might want to include some of the below points:

a) How do you stand out from other people?
b) What do you do for fun?
c) Responsibilities you hold, for example in any sports, societies or after school activities.
d) Any special achievements that you are proud of.

Tips on Writing Personal Statements: Do's and Don'ts

There are several ways to write a personal statement. Again, it is up to you, but remember:.

Do…

- Do keep your sentences clear and concise and come straight to the point. For example, when answering the question, 'Why do you want to study this subject?' you could begin your sentence with, 'I wish to study this subject because…'
- Do your research in advance.
- Do use a spellchecker, but remember that it doesn't work in all cases.
- Do draft and re-draft your statement, and get someone else to check it before you send it.
- Do be original and express yourself. Let your personality come through.

Do not…

- Do not use automatic translation software.
- Do not make errors of fact. For example, ‘Cambridge Ruskin International College is in London’ is not correct. Make sure you know that what you say is true.
- Plagiarism is taken very seriously by CRIC and ARU and is when you copy or take another's work and use it as your own. CRIC ensures that all personal statements are checked for plagiarism, and if you are found to have copied either part or the whole of another person's statement, your application will be unsuccessful.

If you have any questions about your personal statement, please feel free to contact us.

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