

# Session 3:

# Writing your personal statement



UCAS Personal Statement

There are several factors that contribute to the reason, why I became extremely interested in the field of designing, as well as in developing different computer software. While I love the logical challenges involved in the field of computer science I love the fact that it involves creative work. I feel that Computer Science has an impact to all aspects of our lives from the way we love playing music, to banking.

Since I love to read, I did a self study on the world of programming while negotiating both creative aspects and logical challenges involved. In order to further widen out my abilities, I am interested in learning how to develop advanced software in order to provide solution to real life scenarios. For instance, in order to escort a military pilot who became unconscious in the middle of flying a fighter jet, a special computer system was developed in order to provide calculation to the speed as well as the altitude of the jet, using the information gathered in order to enable the autopilot feature to lead the plane, allowing it to land both the pilot and jet safely.

At the same time, my personal passion in the field of algorithms has developed out of my previous experience with Decision Maths. Since then, I have already used them for several other applications such as learning to solve complicated Rubik's cube. I am hoping to learn more regarding the development as well as the application of effective algorithms while I was in the University.

Aside from my interest in the field of Computer Science and programming, I also find Drama very interesting. While I was studying drama during the last four years, I have noticed an improvement on my communication skills and teamwork capabilities. This is particularly true when I was brainstorming ideas off with other people in the drama club. I am hoping to be able to use my experience in order to possibly enhance my skills in order to visualize primary elements that are missing, as well as particular improvements that need strong skills in decision making, as well as in taking a lead towards developing a good solution to every need.

PersonalStatementCounter.com

# Personal statements

A close-up photograph of several students gathered around a desk, focused on a document. One student is holding a yellow pencil, while others have their hands on the paper, pointing at specific sections. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a classroom or study environment.

A group of students in a classroom setting are gathered around a computer monitor. A woman in the foreground is pointing at the screen while a man looks on. Other students are visible in the background, some looking at the screen and others looking away. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a modern educational environment.

# UNIFROG

You will be writing your personal statement using UNIFROG.

A group of people in a modern office setting. In the foreground, a woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a blue plaid shirt, is smiling and looking towards a computer monitor. Behind her, a man in a blue shirt is looking at the same monitor. In the background, other people are visible, including a woman in a white cap. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a window in the background.

# Personal statements

Personal statements are about selling yourself.



## From a university/employer perspective

‘With many highly qualified students applying to university and degree apprenticeships, the personal statement is crucial in helping us identify students with the greatest merit and aptitude for our courses and employers.’

**University of Manchester**

# What is being looked for?

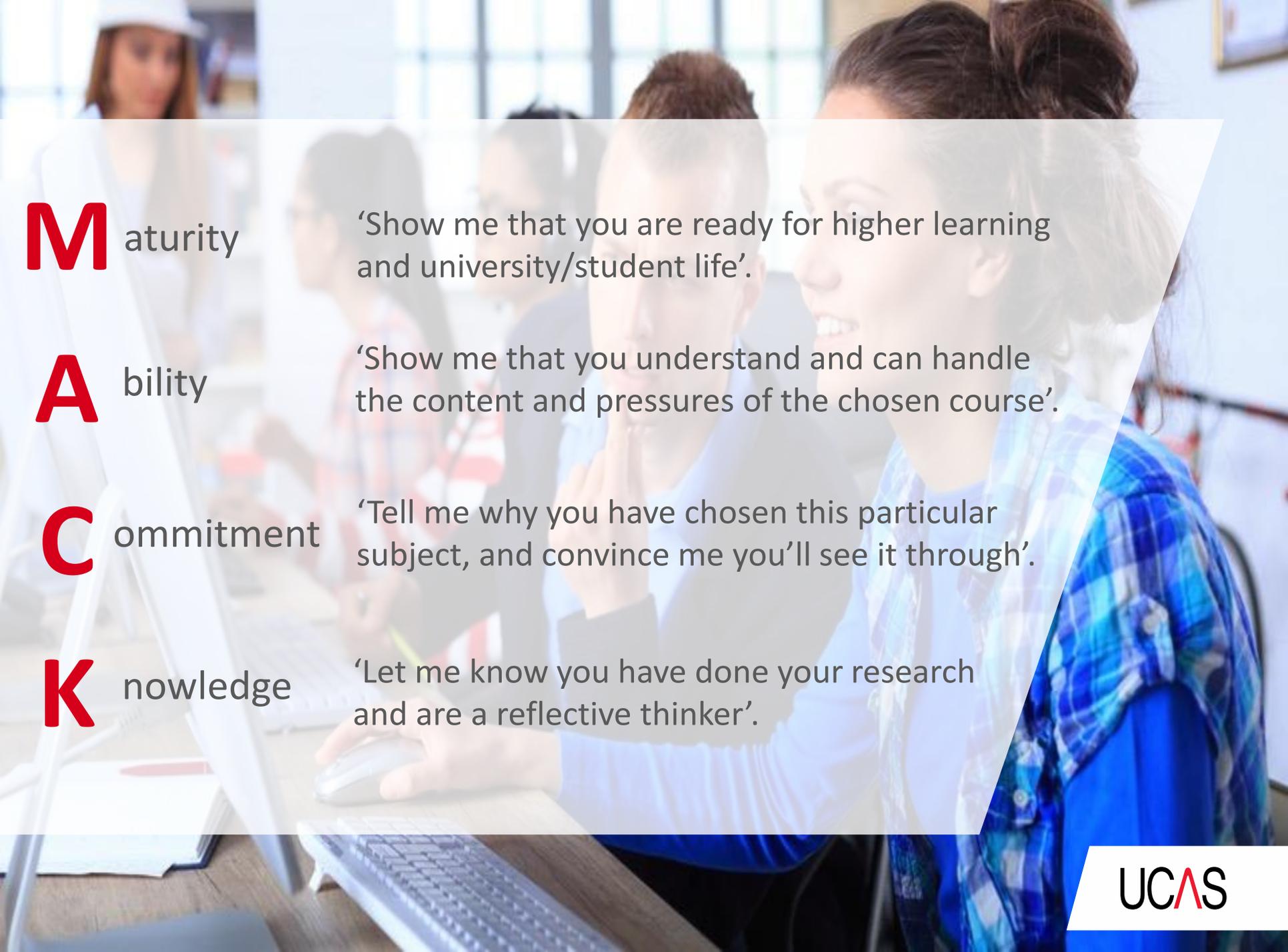
- Independent study skills.
- Self-awareness.
- Motivation and commitment.
- An understanding of the course.
- Good numeracy and literacy.
- Research skills.
- Essay writing – don't write lists.
- Enthusiasm – going beyond the norm.
- Time management skills.
- Reflective thinking.

# Points to remember

- Strong opening paragraph.
- Research into courses/company will help you.
- 80% academic, 20% extra curricular.
- Be honest.
- Draft, redraft, and proof read.
- There's no perfect statement.

# Most common opening lines

1. From a young age, I have (always) been [interested in/fascinated by]... [1,779]
2. For as long as I can remember, I have... [1,451]
3. I am applying for this course because... [1,370]
4. I have always been interested in... [927]
5. Throughout my life, I have always enjoyed... [310]
6. Reflecting on my educational experiences... [257]
7. Nursing is a very challenging and demanding [career/course]... [211]
8. Academically, I have always been... [168]
9. I have always wanted to pursue a career in... [160]
10. I have always been passionate about... [160]



**M**aturity

‘Show me that you are ready for higher learning and university/student life’.

**A**bility

‘Show me that you understand and can handle the content and pressures of the chosen course’.

**C**ommitment

‘Tell me why you have chosen this particular subject, and convince me you’ll see it through’.

**K**nowledge

‘Let me know you have done your research and are a reflective thinker’.

# Encourage good habits

Get into the habit of being very critical with the number of words you use in each sentence. Once you have written something, go back and decide if each and every word you recently wrote deserves to be there.

**Be ruthless with excess words – take no prisoners!**

# ABC rule...so what?

**A**ctivity: what have you done?

**B**enefit: what skills have you gained?

**C**ourse: how will this prepare you for the course?

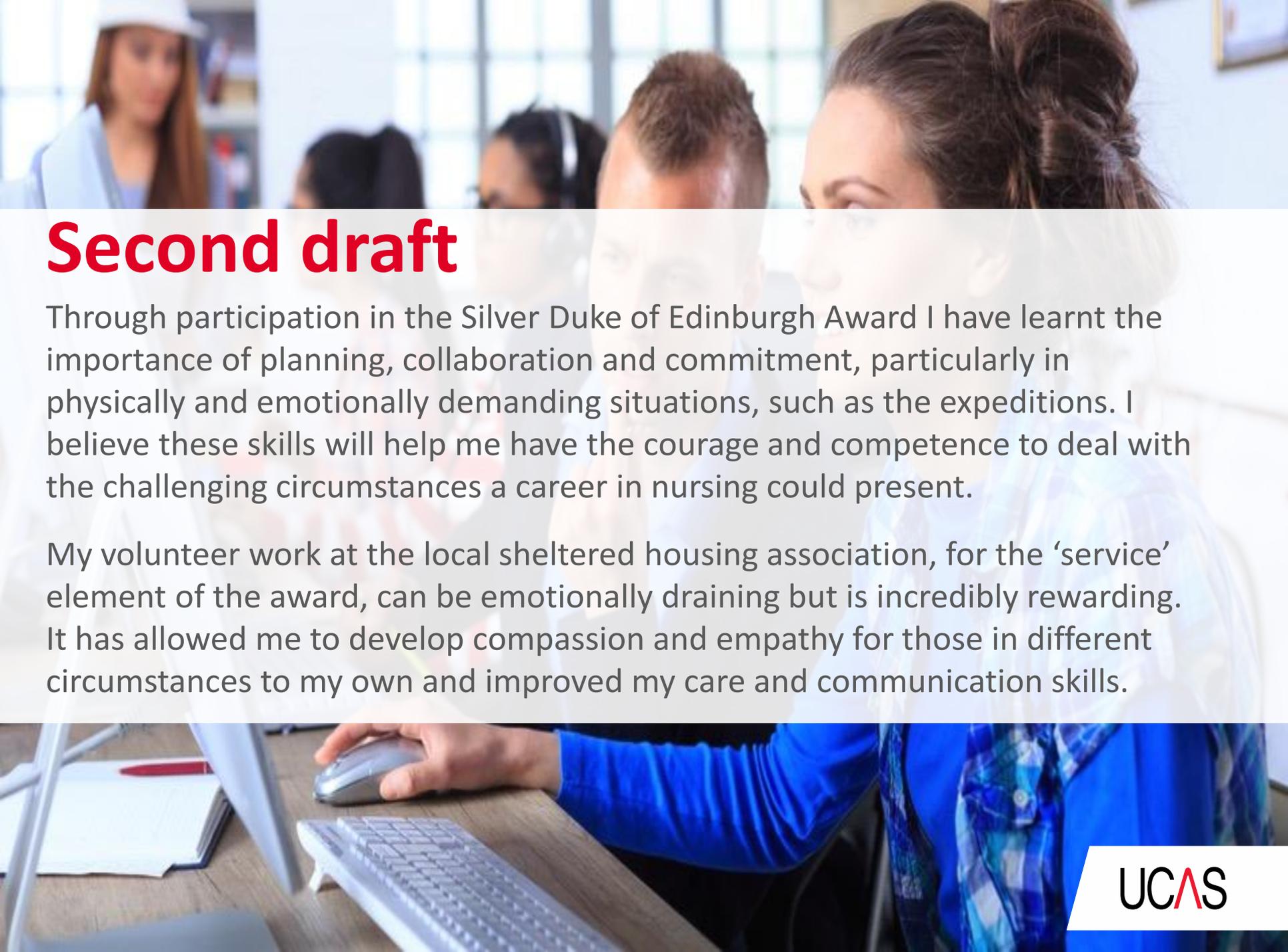
**SO WHAT?**

# First draft

I have achieved my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, I am currently working towards my Silver and I am hoping to gain Gold level at university. I love planning and undertaking expeditions as they are physically demanding.

I also enjoy working for the 'service' element of the award. At the moment, I visit the elderly residents at the local sheltered housing association once a week. I am hoping to be involved in promoting the award scheme to young people in the future, as I have really benefitted from it and would like to be able to share my experience with others.

**SO WHAT?**



## Second draft

Through participation in the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award I have learnt the importance of planning, collaboration and commitment, particularly in physically and emotionally demanding situations, such as the expeditions. I believe these skills will help me have the courage and competence to deal with the challenging circumstances a career in nursing could present.

My volunteer work at the local sheltered housing association, for the 'service' element of the award, can be emotionally draining but is incredibly rewarding. It has allowed me to develop compassion and empathy for those in different circumstances to my own and improved my care and communication skills.

# UCAS' similarity detection service

**Every personal statement is put through similarity detection.**

Personal statements are checked against:

- a library of personal statements previously submitted to UCAS
- sample statements collected from a variety of websites
- other sources, including paper publications

Each personal statement received at UCAS is added to the library of statements after it has been processed.

# Passion vs. career

- 300,000 personal statements
- 200 million words

## Passion words

- Love (of)
- Passion
- Passionate
- Explore

## Career words

- Salary
- Employable
- Career
- Job (in)

# Personal Statement Writing

Furthermore

Strengthen

Commitment

Efficiently

I particularly  
enjoyed

Enable me

Enhanced

Reinforced

Hard work

I continue to  
develop

Intellectual  
exploration

Thrive under  
pressure

This has  
furthered my

I undertook

Through  
regularly  
attending

of particular  
interest to me

As well as

My pursuits

Broadening  
my interest

I was  
determined to

on reflection

Explore my  
interests

Taking part in

I aspire to

Combining...  
with... has  
taught me

Additionally

skills I have  
gained through

Creatively

My interest in

This has  
expanded my  
knowledge of

used my  
initiative

I learnt from

Benefit

Responsibility

Challenging

To improve  
my

Immensely  
rewarding

Thought-  
provoking

Learnt to  
prioritise

My  
involvement  
with

# UNIFROG

You will be writing your personal statement using UNIFROG.

## Drafting application materials

### UK Personal Statement

- ✘ Subject added
- ✘ Started
- ✘ Character count
- ✘ Marked as finished

[Go to tool >](#)

### Classes

- ✘ CACHE Health and Social Care
- ✘ Psychology
- ✘ Sociology
- ✘ Overall Reference

[Edit >](#)

### CV / Resumé

- ✘ Write CVs perfectly tailored for the roles you want

[Start >](#)

## This is your opportunity to shine

The Personal Statement is your opportunity to demonstrate that you would be an excellent student for the courses you are applying to. It is primarily an academic statement and you must target it towards the subject in which you are interested.

Latest version of your statement for studying: **ADD SUBJECT**

### Write

Add, edit and delete text

### Preview

How it'll look to universities



#### Section 1

Why do you want to study this subject?

0 of 1200 characters

Start >



#### Section 2

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

0 of 2400 characters

Start >



#### Section 3

What else have you done that would contribute to the university community?

0 of 400 characters

Start >



#### Marked as 'Ready to add to Locker' by a teacher? **Not yet**

If you think you have finished, please ask the appropriate teacher to check it and mark it as 'Finished and ready to add to Locker' on the Teacher side of Urefrog.



**TOTAL: below minimum** - 0 of 4000 characters;  
3300 is the minimum



#### Single box layout

Would you prefer to draft your Statement in a single text box rather than in 3 sections?  
[Convert to one box here.](#)



UCAS

# Summer Task

Before and during the holidays, do your **RESEARCH** and write your first draft of your personal statement. The deadline for this is **Monday 6 September.**

**NOTE: On average it will take you 8 drafts before you feel that you have a good personal statement!**