



# How to Write a PS for Competitive UK Universities



# The four R's...

**Right  
subject**

**Excellent  
academic  
record**

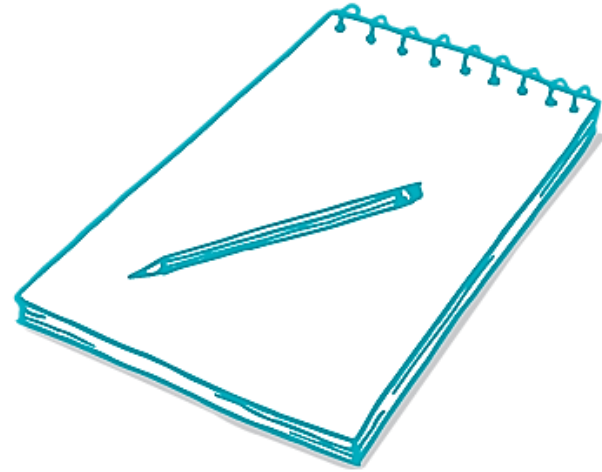
**Read and  
think  
critically and  
analytically**

**Right  
teaching  
style**



# Key information used in selection

- Academic record
- UCAS teachers' reference
- **UCAS personal statement**
- Tests/assessments
- Submitted work
- Performance at interview (if interviewed)

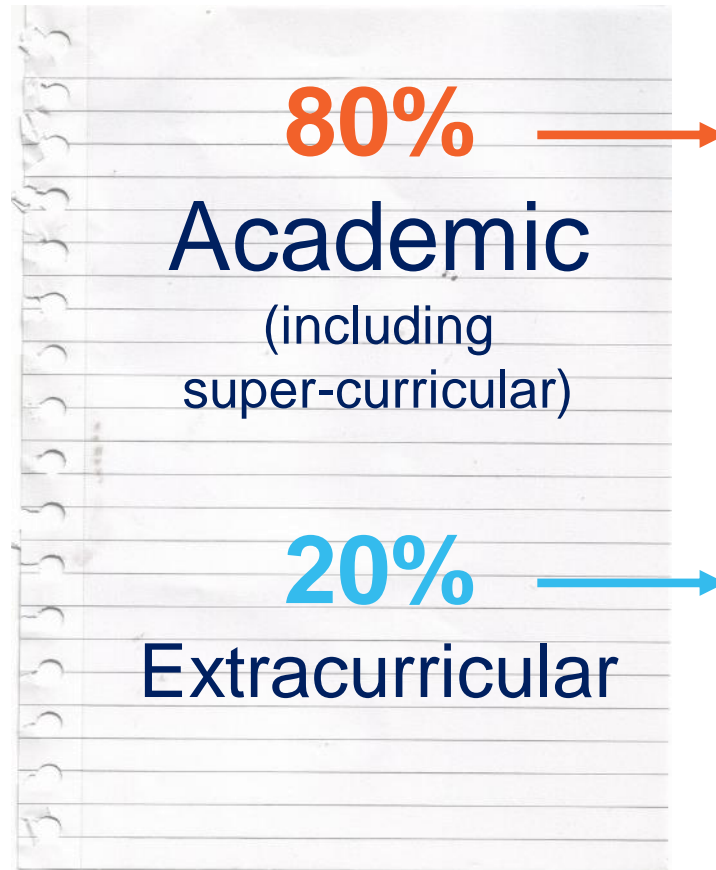


# Personal Statement -

- Up to 4,000 characters (this includes spaces) or 47 lines of text (this includes blank lines)
- Allows you to:
  - Explain why you want to study that course
  - Demonstrate your motivation and commitment
  - Make a good first impression
  - Focus on academic personality
- May provide content for discussion at interview

# Personal statements

- ✓ Plan it first
- ✓ Sell yourself
- ✓ Check spelling
- ✓ Check grammar
- ✓ Be honest
- ✓ Be reflective



- Why do I want to study this course?
- Current studies
- Outside reading
- What have I watched/ listened to/ visited
- What have I learned or formed an opinion on
- Work experience if required or relevant
- Extracurricular activities should focus on transferable skills



# Top tips

- Use your own insights and personal experiences to stand out
- Does each section back up your claim that you wish to pursue your chosen course at university?
- Interrogate the draft: What does this tell me? What was the impact? Is the evidence too brief...are opportunities being missed? Is it overwritten?
- If it doesn't relate to being a successful university student: cut it. Don't afraid to be brutal.



# Interviews: what to expect

- Focused and challenging questions
- New approaches to existing knowledge
- Prompting from interviewers and questions from you
- Interviews usually cover
  - Academic work
  - Reading and other super-curricular exploration
  - Subject-related wider awareness
  - 'Prompt' material
  - **PS (issues you tackle in your PS)**

- ***No hidden agenda, no trick questions, not the final hurdle***

# Why is it important to have a good PS?

Academic  
Achievement

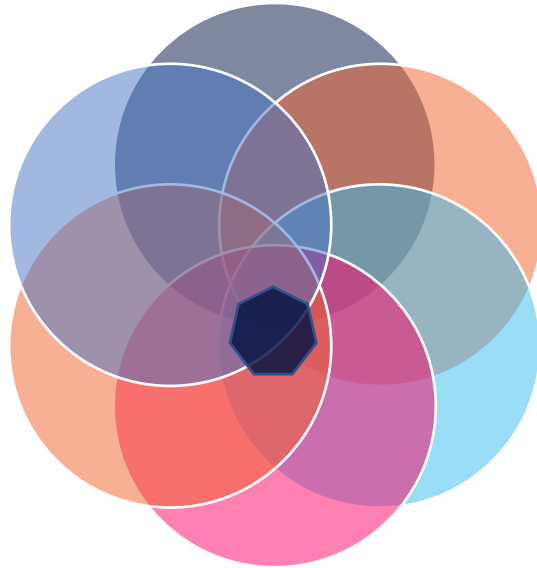
Interviews

Personal  
Statement

Admissions  
Tests

Teacher's  
Reference

Written  
Work







Thank you!

