

# Useful Resources

This PDF is interactive, so please click on the underlined section and it will take you to the website.

Before thinking about your options after school have a think about the following questions;



Is there a specific career I have in mind?



Do I want/have to go to University or College or both? Or do I want to do an apprenticeship?



What subjects do I like at school? What subjects do I hate?



What are my hobbies? What do I enjoy doing inside & outside of school?



What skills & strengths do I think I have?



Am I only interested in the course/job because I have been influenced by my family/friends or teachers?

## When researching your course/career....

### My World of Work

The [Explore Careers](#) section will allow you to find out about different careers easily including the average salary, job description & what qualifications you need. The [Skills](#) & [Strengths](#) tool is useful if you are not sure what you are good at or defining your skillset.

### UCAS Course Search

The best place to start researching University courses. Every course in the UK is listed here (so remember and filter for Scotland), so you will be able to type in a subject area and see which University offers it.

They also have a new [UCAS hub](#) which will allow you to save all your research in one place and start planning for that personal statement!

## University Websites

The next step once you have decided which University does what and you have a rough idea what you want to do. They will give you a better breakdown of classes you can take and opportunities during your study. Remember to check for any upcoming events.

## College Websites

Like above they are the best place to find out courses available at college. There is no harm to applying to both University and College. Remember to check out the progression routes into University (articulation) which means you could do a HNC or HND and end up in Yr2 or Yr3 of University.

You can also find out about the above websites with our [online playlist](#). This is a step by step guide on how to use the above when researching your career.

You can also use [University Prospectus'](#) and attend [virtual open days](#).



UCAS Opens → September 8



Deadline for Music @  
Royal Conservatoire → October 1



Deadline for Oxbridge,  
Medicine, Vet Medicine → October 15



School Deadline → November/December



UCAS Deadline → January 26

## Personal Statement

It is important to plan before thinking about your personal statement. Treat it like an essay ensuring you have a solid plan before writing! By making sure you have done your research and know about all about the courses you are applying to your personal statement will be easier to write.

It should highlight **why you are passionate about what you are applying too and why you deserve a place on the course.**

With only **4000 characters and 47 lines**, you have to ensure you are clear, concise and highlighting things that are relevant to your course. As you only get 1 personal statement for all 5 universities, try and keep your courses similar. Applying for 1-2 similar courses will make your personal statement stronger.

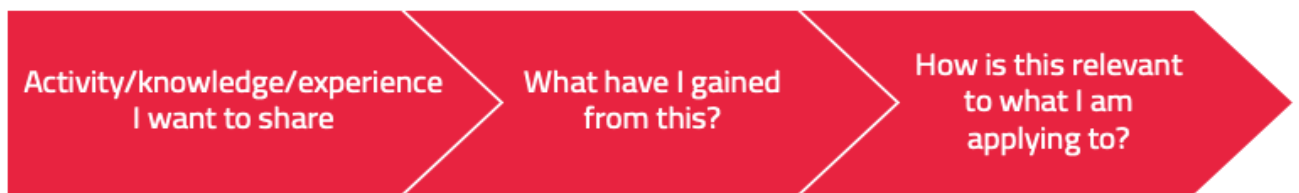
A personal statement should be:



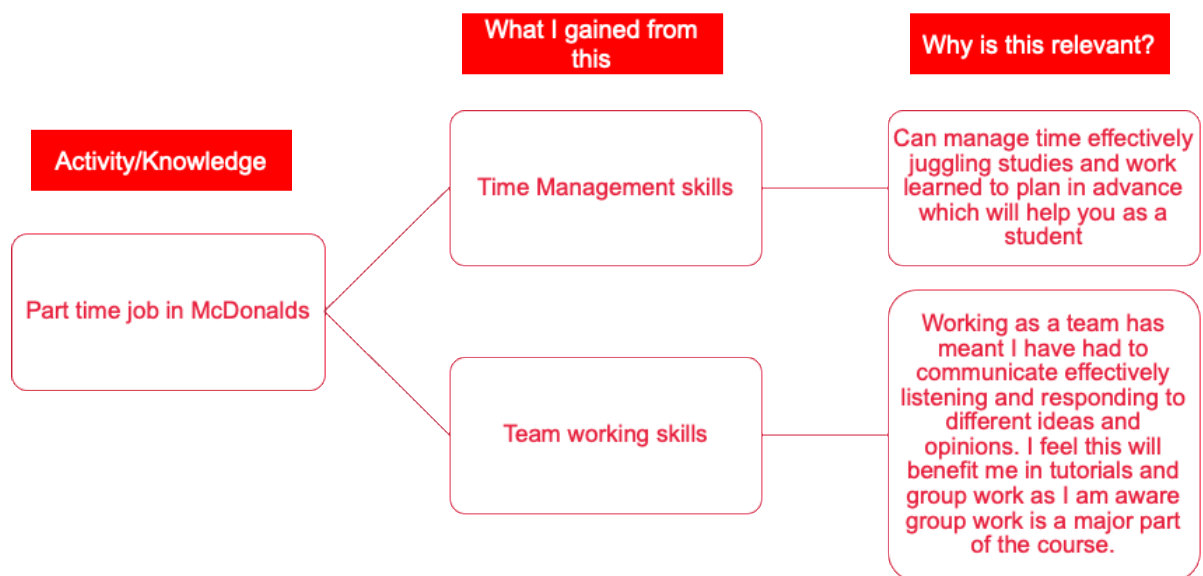
## What do I include?

Deciding what should be in your personal statement can be difficult. You might think you have done nothing, but any experience can demonstrate your skills and strengths. You just need to link it back!

Before starting, list everything you have taking part in whether inside or outside school and then rate them the most relevant to your course to the least relevant. This will give you an idea of what you should include and maybe what you should leave out. Also think about what you have gained from these experiences whether it is skills or knowledge and how you can make it relevant to what you are applying to.



Here is an example:



## Opportunities in a Pandemic

The pandemic had brought a lot of free opportunities to light which might support your application to college, university or into a job. Below are some links to some free opportunities:

### Free Online Courses

You can do short online courses related to your subject area through either [OpenLearn](#) or [FutureLearn](#). These could support your personal statement.

### Educational Videos or listen to Podcasts

You can watch education videos online, for example, on [TEDx](#) to find out about world concerns and ideas. You could use this to gain inside knowledge and the build on your own ideas. Equally, you might want to listen to some podcasts to build you knowledge.

### In Person Opportunities

There may still be some places offering volunteering opportunities. However, you might need to be proactive and phone around a few places to find out. You can find some volunteering opportunities in Fife on the [Fife Voluntary Action website](#).

### Books & Academic papers

You can also read some popular books and papers in the field you are applying too. Check University websites for the breakdown of classes and book lists. Maybe there is a book that pops up more than once!

### Open Days & Online Lectures

Use open days to speak to academics and current students to find out more about the courses. Some Universities will also do online lectures for you to attend.

If you need any support or have any questions about your options after school, you can contact Nicola or Mairi by email on [wideningaccess@napier.ac.uk](mailto:wideningaccess@napier.ac.uk)