



ACADEMIC
STUDIES ABROAD

Writing a Personal Statement – Helpful Advice *~For ASA Students applying to University of the Arts London~*

Here is some helpful information about what is expected in a Personal Statement.

Nuts and Bolts

- **Your Personal Statement is an important part of your application and should be taken seriously. It is not just a formality and should be treated as any other important college paper or essay.** It is helpful to think of it as a college admissions essay.
- It must have structure, just like a paper you would write for a class – must have an introductory paragraph, middle, and closing paragraph.
- Should be 1-2 pages in length.
- As was explained in the Portfolio Advice, each college at UAL has its own specific identity and thinks of itself as separate from the UAL other colleges. You should think of yourself as applying to your UAL college of choice (i.e. CSM, Chelsea, Wimbledon, LCC, Camberwell, etc.) – NOT to UAL. In other words, when you refer to the school you're applying to, you should name your particular college within UAL.
- Please show that you have put some thought and effort into your statement.
- Wait a day or two and re-read your essay. You may notice things you didn't before – typos, omissions, grammatical errors, etc.

- It always helps to have a second pair of eyes look at what you've written. Have someone read your essay and give you feedback before turning it in.

What should I write about?

Your Personal Statement needs to have more scope than just “why I want to go to (insert name of UAL).” It should show who you are as both a student and a person. This is an opportunity for your UAL course director to get to know you, so feel free to show your unique personality in your essay.

- Why did you choose this particular college at UAL?
- What do you hope to accomplish or achieve while studying there?
- What are your long-term goals in your degree area?
- What kinds of projects are you hoping to take on, or themes you hope to explore while studying at UAL?

Feel free to talk more about yourself as well - you as a person as well as you as a student! Where you grew up, what is important to you, what are your hobbies/extra curricular activities/interests...do you work with any charities or do volunteer work at home or on your campus...stuff like that. The point of the personal statement is to get to know you, as well as see where you're going in your chosen degree.