

Postgraduate Course Personal Statement Framework

Use this form to self-assess your postgraduate course personal statement, scoring it out of **9**. For each section, score 1 if you tick any point in row 1, score 2 if you meet all the criteria in row 2, and score 3 if you meet all criteria in rows 2 and 3.

For personal statement guidelines and further resources visit

prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/masters-degrees/personal-statements-for-postgraduate-applications

Motivations

1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No (or weak and generic) motivation for course, institution or location No articulation of motivation in relation to career ambitions
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates research has been undertaken to show motivations Motivation for institution, course and/or location Motivation for opportunity related to career ambition
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motivation for institution, course and location all covered Motivations are specific, showing good understanding and reflection for reasons (for example showing interest in relation to specific modules, lecturers, teaching style, industry links or work experience opportunities) Shows interest but also how you will contribute

Competencies

1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No (or non-relevant) skills, qualities, attributes, values included Examples included with no relevance or no links to opportunity
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples are specific Relevant skills, qualities, attributes, values included Employment, extra-curricular experiences, volunteering, awards, interests which are made relevant are included
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence is specific to demonstrate skills related to course and institution Evidence is well articulated using the STARR technique Links are made between past and current course and the opportunity being applied for

Structure and Writing Style

1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not structured well, not in logical format Poor spelling and grammar Paragraphs or sentences too long Lack of positive and enthusiastic tone
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short and concise sentences and paragraphs No spelling and grammar errors Good structure with good flow to statement (usually motivations followed by competencies)
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concise, articulate and engaging with good motivations and examples of competencies Positive, enthusiastic throughout making statement stand out Avoids any generic/clichéd terms Well written introduction and conclusion

Score out of 9 (Aim for a score of 7+)	Use the following Action Plan to note how you can develop and improve your postgraduate course personal statements.
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Postgraduate Course Personal Statement Action Plan

Notes and action points to work on

Motivations:

Competencies:

Structure and Writing Style:

When you have reviewed your personal statement using the framework, you can **book an appointment** to discuss it with the Careers Network team, who can provide feedback and support you with your next steps. lboro.ac.uk/services/careers/students-and-graduates/book-appointment/