Information for SLS Website

Hints on writing a Personal Statement (Accessing University)

1	Remember who is reading your Personal Statement	a. They are likely to be subject specialists. Attract their attention by
		    i. showing your knowledge and enthusiasm for the course
		    ii. being positive at all times

2	What makes a good Personal Statement?	One which
		    a. has an opening sentence which provides evidence for the reason(s) why you have applied for the course(s)
		    b. is well-written
		    c. is packed full of evidence of what you have done to research your course(s)
		    d. mentions wider reading:
		        i. Newspaper articles
		        ii. Academic papers
		        iii. Podcasts
		        iv. School course work
		        v. BBC websites often supply good information on current affairs which may help research
		    e. links what knowledge or experience you have gained from wider reading with the reasons for the applications you have made

3	Work experience under COVID -19 restrictions (Content)	a. Virtual work experience is valuable and should be mentioned b. Practical work experience at home (computer / technological experience) should be mentioned if relevant to the course(s) c. Virtual tours of art exhibitions / visits to virtual workshops

4	Work experience (Linking it to course(s) applied for)	a. Do NOT just list what you have done b. Link what you have applied for with what you learned or experienced through your virtual work experience c. Use the evidence as building blocks to lead you back to supporting why you chose the course(s) you did. Link all your statements to what you want to study - how did the experience confirm your choice of study? d. Do NOT go into great detail. Leave that for the interview e. 80% of a good Personal Statement should be evidence f. What, from your work experience or research, has inspired you
5	Personal stories	a. Avoid use of over dramatic language b. Use formal language c. Keep to plain English – do not sound as though you have swallowed a thesaurus d. IF you are going to use personal stories, link in with skills and qualities, communication, leadership, teamwork. Use these as building blocks to support your choice of course
6	Outside interests	b. Mention these if you wish but keep the detail to a minimum c. The main focus of the Personal Statement is academic evidence: that should form the bulk of the text
7	Career aspirations	a. Explain what you intend to do (if you know) after university b. How has your research influence your choice of career?
8	How do you end your Personal Statement?	a. It is important to have a concluding sentence but that is all it has to be – one sentence b. A possible ending: Referring to some of the research you have done, you know you have made the correct choice / you are looking forward to exploring XYZ in more detail / you are excited by the prosect of delving into the subject in greater detail.
9	General points	a) If something is not relevant, leave it out b) If you have work experience planned for the future (virtual or physical) say what is in the pipeline. Explain what interests / excites you about what you hope to be doing c) Keep positive. Rather than saying that you work experience had been cancelled, concentrate on what you have done instead c. If referring to people you have regarded as role models and inspirational, mention this briefly. It is YOUR Personal Statement – do not waste space by describing what they have achieved. d. Do not use humour – keep it formal

		e. Have a start, middle and end. Do not let your work tail off without writing a strong concluding sentence