



Road show 2010

Personal Statements & Interviews

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Personal Statement



- Filling in a form about me is easy.....itn't it ?
 - Full-time apply through UCAS
 - Part-time apply direct to institution
- Competition for Higher Education (HE) places does exist
 - You're in competition with each other
 - So take your form filling seriously



THINK Presentation



- 4,000 characters or approx 47 lines
- Advised to draft off-line (say in Word) then import to your UCAS/direct entry application
- Don't underline, *use italics*, chose fancy font, colour or put in **bold** – all these will be reformatted when transferred into your online application.
- Don't cut and paste from others– your application may be rejected by similarity detection software



Be kind & Be honest



- Be kind to your Admissions Tutor
 - Don't use slang or txt spk
 - Don't write long lists, nor use bullet points
 - Write clear, easily read sentences
 - Use paragraphs to break up the text, not headings
 - Refrain from using elaborate words if you're not comfortable / confident with them
 - Don't rely on spell check
- BE HONEST and don't be afraid
of being ENTHUSIASTIC



Prepare to write



- Gather all the information around you
 - Prospectus, web pages, career outlines, text books
 - Bring together all that research you've done
- Be clear about **WHAT** you are applying for
- TV off, Facebook alerts off,
cuppa tea and jammy dodger at the side



THINK !



- Who are you addressing ?
- Why are you addressing them ?
- What do you want them to know ?

THINK Professional

THINK Jargon

THINK Interview



First bit



- Declare your interest in the subject and WHY
 - Where does your interest come from ?
 - Which bits of nursing really interest you ?
 - Which modules of complementary therapies are you keen to study ?
 - Which area of child development most fascinates you ?

WHY DO YOU CARE ?

If you were a lecturer, who would you want to teach ?

Some one who was keen, enthusiastic, involved maybe ?



Second bit



- PROVE your interest
 - Support what you've already written
 - What have you DONE, DO, ENJOY about the subject ?
 - How do you show your interest ?
 - How are you developing your interest ?

- Include all relevant work experience
 - What have you GAINED ?
LEARNT ?
OBSERVED ?
UNDERSTOOD ?



Third bit



- **ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Inside & outside of studies – what have you done that you're proud of ?

- **RESPONSIBILITIES**

- When have you been given positions of responsibility ?

- **EXPERIENCE**

- May not be directly linked to subject, but evidences your suitable qualities.

- **Interests / Hobbies**

- word it well – think who you are writing to



Conclusion



- Finish on a positive note
- Make a **statement** about your hopes for the future and why HE will be a positive experience for you.
- Write, write and re write – get it **RIGHT**
- Ask others you trust to read through it, be prepared to listen to their comments



REMEMBER



.....everything you write is an indicator to the Admissions Tutor as to your suitability to the course.

- Only include things you're able to talk about at interview
- Keep a copy !



INTERVIEW



INTERVIEW



- Soyour statement impressed
you're called for interview

Do you.....

- A) panic
- B) cry
- C) jump up and down with joy
- D) take a deep breath
- E) ALL of the above

answer: E) All of the above



Interview top tips



- **PREPARE**

- Be 1st in line for mock interviews at college
- Research your subject/career area
 - » Typical day as a qualified children's nurse on the ward
- Know the COURSE you're applying for
 - » theory, practice placements
 - » understand course demands and how they fit in with you
- Know YOUR reasons for wanting to study
 - » don't be stumped by the question 'so why social work?'
- Know what subjects you are **TAKING NOW** and what you're predicted grades are.



prepare



- Understand the STRUCTURE of your interview
 - Will you be interviewed in a group situation ?
 - Will you be interviewed 1:2:1 ?
 - How long will it last ?
 - Will you have to sit a Maths &/or English test ?
 - » If so, ask how these are structured.
 - Will you have a tour of facilities ?



The day



- WHERE to go & HOW to get there
 - Give yourself plenty of time ! Late 😞 for all
- Dress appropriately
 - Clean hair and fingernails, antiperspirant
 - Smart clean cloths – office wear, not night club
 - put earphones away, switch mobiles onto silent
- Bring all info you've been asked for
 - (and a copy of your personal statement for reference)
 - » This demonstrates good organisation qualities 😊



Best not to



- State that you only applied because you couldn't get into 'X'
- Be critical of other institutions or professions
- Ask about work placement PAYMENT or getting time off placement
- Make negative statements
 - » (avoid can't, won't, wouldn't, didn't)
- Use slang like
 - » y know, doesn't sound, y know, all that good, like innit



Do's



- Be a confident communicator
 - Appropriate eye contact, clear speech, sit up, smile
 - LISTEN to the questions,
 - » be confident to ask if you need anything repeated
- Answer the question being asked
- Don't be afraid to say you don't know
 - » but maybe say how you could find out
- Feel like you deserve to be there !



What if



I don't get a place ?



What ifi don't get in ?



- Don't despair – get a plan
- Find out why & address the feedback you get
- Try again - Apply again
 - through clearing in the summer
 - some courses have a January intake
 - next year
- Use any time wisely
 - work in appropriate area
 - night school – to enhance your application
 - voluntary work - makes your application stronger

Use you College Student Services to guide you



More info ?



Top tips and useful contact details
are in your goody bag

This presentation can be seen
on the www.bbcsln.co.uk website



Finance



The Government are currently reviewing funding for students starting their courses in 2011/12 and beyond.

As soon as more info is available the university and colleges will release information of fees and bursaries.

In you goody bag, you'll see a sheet with information and contacts you'll find useful.



Any questions ?



- If you have any questions Please ask
 - at the exhibitions stands
 - your Tutor or Student Services

PA

Progression Agreement

