



THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* EDINBURGH

# Postgraduate Discovery Day

How to apply – Personal Statements &  
References

**EDINBURGH**  
extraordinary futures await

# Personal Statement

- Reasons for applying and your passion for the programme applied to
- Include your goals and your preparation
- Take your time and tailor it
- ‘Relevant knowledge/training skills’ section
- Ask someone to proof-read it



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH

**EDINBURGH**  
xtraordinary futures await





# What will be looked for?

## College of Science and Engineering

“We expect applicants to show that they understand the programme and that they have a genuine interest. We want to know why the applicant is interested in studying the particular programme and what they hope to gain from it personally and professionally.

Personal Statements should be written in prose but Relevant Knowledge/Training Skills section can be bullet points. It can also be left blank if all information is provided elsewhere in the application.”



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH

**EDINBURGH**  
extraordinary futures await

# What will be looked for?

## College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences

“Personal Statements are often crucial in assessing fit and understanding of programme.”  
Particularly for new Edinburgh Futures Institute programmes, Translation Studies and film related programmes.



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH

**EDINBURGH**  
xtraordinary futures await



# What will be looked for?

## School of Law

“Tell us what your background is, how your interests have led you to a PG degree at Edinburgh and what you hope to do thereafter. The more professional your application is, the more it will be taken seriously. This is *critical* when it comes to funding and doubly so if you are borderline when it comes to meeting your requirements.”



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH

**EDINBURGH**  
extraordinary futures await



# What will be looked for?

## School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences

“It should include information on why the student is interested in the specific programme and why they think their experience is relevant. This is particularly important if the undergraduate degree is not directly related to the subject they are applying for.

The personal statement is vital for admissions in our School because we have programmes that are closely related and the personal statement allows us to be sure that the applicant has applied for the correct programme – we will refer them to other programmes if the match is not a good one.”



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH

**EDINBURGH**  
extraordinary futures await



# What will be looked for?

## College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine

“We spend less time reviewing personal statements because the individual programme teams make decisions on all applications themselves.

We have a lot of online degrees where work experience is very important so we would also advise applicants to carefully read the entry requirements section of the relevant degree finder page for clarification on what work experience the programme team may be looking for.”



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH

**EDINBURGH**  
extraordinary futures await

# References

General rule: One reference required for taught programmes, two references required for research programmes. However, not always the case.

- Who to ask for a reference?
- What details to include when asking for a reference?
- How to provide a reference in an application?
- When should you ask your referee?





# Next Steps

Watch the 'How to apply' session recording

Read the programme information on the Degree Finder and note deadlines

Register to view the Open Days On-demand recordings

Research potential funding sources

Be aware of process for student visas (if applicable)

Contact the Admissions team if you have any questions about applying:

Contact details can normally be found under 'Further Information' on the Degree Finder



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH

**EDINBURGH**  
extraordinary futures await

# Postgraduate Open Days On-demand

For more  
information:  
[edin.ac/pgodod](https://edin.ac/pgodod)



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH

**EDINBURGH**  
extraordinary futures await



Read our students' blogs at  
[blogs.ed.ac.uk/studentstories](https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/studentstories)



THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH

**EDINBURGH**  
extraordinary futures await





THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* EDINBURGH

Thank you!

**EDINBURGH**  
extraordinary futures await