

Personal statement guidance for Teacher Education applicants

If you're looking to apply to a postgraduate Teacher Education programme, here's some information from Scottish training providers on what to include in your personal statement. Please ensure you refer to the pointers on the ['Writing a personal statement'](#) page on [ucas.com](#) in addition to the information in this document.

Training providers will look to your personal statement for evidence of commitment, motivation and suitability for your chosen Teacher Education programme. To make a decision, the information in your personal statement will be considered alongside all the other information you supply in your UCAS application.

What information should you include?

Below is a rough guide on what you should include in your personal statement and is by no means an exhaustive list. For more specific guidance, contact your chosen training provider.

1. Why are you applying?

Explain why you want to be a teacher and why you think you are suited to the teaching profession. Be specific about why you have chosen your particular primary/secondary subject area.

2. Relevant work experience with children

Detail this in chronological order, including dates (most recent first), stating the numbers of hours spent per week over the number of weeks/months, and list the school(s) you worked in; e.g. **'1 hour per week for a full school year (approximately 40 hours in total) undertaken in 2013'**. Also include any other work experience you have done with children, e.g. Brownies, Scouts, nursery, after school clubs etc.

3. Reflection on working with children

Comment and reflect on what you learned during your school work experience; specifically the skills, attributes and understanding that you gained from this.

4. Understanding of the role of a teacher

Explain what you understand the role of a teacher to be. You can use examples of your experience to reinforce this section.

5. Knowledge of the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence

Elaborate on your knowledge of the education system in Scotland and of the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence.

6. Transferrable skills and outside interests

Give an indication of your work/life balance by including any long-term hobbies or interests you have; e.g. playing a musical instrument, drama, sports, Duke of Edinburgh award or any voluntary work you do. Explain why this enhances your application to your chosen course.

7. Degree suitability

Briefly explain why the content of your university studies makes you a suitable candidate. For secondary courses, you should clearly indicate the aspects of your degree that meet the specific entry requirements. For primary courses, you should identify the aspects of your degree that cover the range of subject areas relevant to the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence.