

# STATEMENT OF PURPOSE (SOP) FOR POSTGRADUATE COURSES

Please refer to the institution website for the course that you wish to apply for the specific details that you need to include in your SOP. This leaflet is for guidance only.

Mentor International (UKEAS) provide a free SOP workshop where you can receive support on how to complete an SOP from our expert advisor. We also provide a free SOP proofreading service for students who apply through our office for their programme. Please visit our website or contact our office for further information.

## WHAT IS SOP?

The SOP is also referred to as a Personal Statement and is used by institutions to consider you for a programme as part of your application.

It is an important part of the application and will be used by the institution to decide if you are suitable for the programme along with your qualifications and experience.

**Read through the course details for the programme you are applying**



**Make sure the course is relevant to your future career plan and read the career guidance on the course details**



## WHAT YOU NEED TO DO BEFORE YOU START YOUR SOP

There are several things that you need to prepare before you start writing your SOP:

1

**Check the guidelines for SOP for the university you are applying to:**

- Do they have a word limit?
- Do they require you to include certain details or answer any specific questions?
- Is there a deadline date by which you need to submit your SOP and application?

2

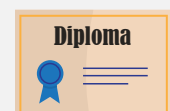
**Read the information regarding the department and university such as ranking, reputation, facilities, location**



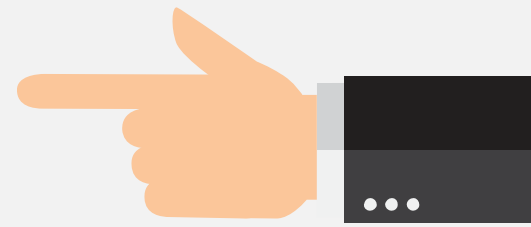
3

4

**Have details of your academic transcripts and work experience**



# HOW TO STRUCTURE YOUR SOP



Make sure you check the guidelines for SOP for the institution you are applying. Normally the SOP will be minimum 1 to maximum 2 A4 pages (unless stated otherwise by the institution).

The SOP should have a logical structure and generally there are 5 key parts:

## 1. INTRODUCTION

10%

Introduce yourself and the programme you are applying for, highlight your previous study and work experience

## 2. WHY YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS SPECIFIC COURSE

30%

Explain why you want to do the course, include examples of modules and subjects which interest you. Highlight any previous related study or work experience to show you are suitable for the programme

## 3. WHY YOU WANT TO STUDY AT THE INSTITUTION

20%

You can refer to the institution's reputation, ranking, location, facilities

## 4. HOW THE COURSE WILL HELP YOUR FUTURE CAREER

20%

Provide details of your future career plan. Explain how the course will help you learn new and relevant knowledge and skills that you can use in your future


## 5. HIGHLIGHT KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

20%

Include academic and non-academic achievements. You can also highlight how you will contribute to the institution (both as a student and alumni)

## CHECKLIST FOR SOP

- Check institution website for guidance on SOP
- Read through the course details.
- Make sure you prepare enough time to complete your SOP
- Check grammar and spelling (you can use Mentor International free proofreading service)
- Do not use the same SOP for different courses or institutions
- Do not copy from online template or alternative source
- Do not be negative
- Be precise and only include relevant information

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