

## Further Information

### **Task 1: Research the Universities that interest you.**

You need to select up to 5 universities that you are interested in going to. Look at the course you want to do, and similar courses (don't pin yourself to one thing unless you are certain that you can/want to achieve it). Find out where the course is run, and what the university is like (if possible, it is a very good idea to visit them as universities run open days in the summer). Please see this link from our Progression Plus careers team's resource page for more information;  
<https://ccgonline.chichester.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=1072>

In the table below record the key information:

<u>University</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>UCAS Code</u>	<u>Entry Requirements</u>	<u>Notes</u>

This list is not prescriptive. You are not bound by these choices and can continue to update your ideas. This is simply a task to get you to focus on where you want to go, as this is normally what determines your success. If there are more than 5 courses that interest you, feel free to note them and attach them, but bear in mind you can only apply to 5 universities at once.

### **Task 2: Personal Statement**

Personal statements are important. Like really, really important. As Access students, you have to explain your decision to enter education as a mature student. Universities are generally not looking for reasons to reject people, and want to give places to as many as they can hold. Admissions tutors at universities are looking for mature students who can reflect on their journeys to their present position. If that sounds too wordy, Uni's want people who understand how they got where they are, and are clear on where they want to go.



## Pointers:

- Avoid negativity, but be honest. If school didn't work for you, briefly explain why (don't snipe at people in the past) and show why you are looking to enter education now
- Uni's value life experience. Don't be put off from mentioning specific events that have fired your drive to succeed (Be brief, but clear)
- Show interest in what you want to do, and be clear about what your future job will involve.
- As mature students, you have experience in working and problem solving that most A level students can't match. Use it...
- Reflect, analyse and evaluate. Though no one wants a statement that just a detailed analysis of a person's life (remember, no more than 47 lines/4000 character count), showing that you can understand the importance of events and choices demonstrates exactly the higher thinking skills that Uni's want to see.
- Showing how events in your life have developed your resilience as a person is a powerful tool.

## Example:

*I have decided that I want to study Animal Behaviour to a higher level. Having had a job in a rescue centre since leaving College, I feel that my experience with dogs and customers has driven me to want to pursue a career as an Animal Behaviourist. When at college, I did not truly have a direction, and as such, my studies did not reflect my best possible achievement. Having reflected on this, I feel I now have the drive needed to pursue a complex but very interesting topic.*

(Character count 372)

## Layout:

1. Intro paragraph 10% Outline your subject choice and inspiration to study
2. Information on your course at Brinsbury, your academic skills, subject knowledge and how this feeds into your Uni course choice 35%
3. Relevant Experiences/transferable skills 35%
4. Hobbies 10%
5. Conclusion 10%

You need to write a partial first draft of your personal statement. This **must** be word processed and should cover sections 1, 3 & 4. Feel free to include notes for section 2, but we will focus on that after the course starts in September. Use <http://www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/undergraduate/filling-your-application/your-personal-statement> to help you.

Your personal statement is your chance to sell yourself to the university. It needs to be written with your courses in mind, but should be about you. Be wary of going too far, as this is a professional document and needs to show that you can approach serious tasks sensibly. I'm not expecting this to be perfect, just a solid first effort that we can improve.

This work should be handed to the Course Leader on your first day of college.