

How to Write a Personal Statement¹

Before writing, consider the **purpose of your application** and the **purpose or mission of the institution or program** to which you are applying, including special areas of research or interest. Ask yourself what the reviewer who reads your personal statement would like to know about you. **What has not been conveyed about you in the rest of the application?**

Ambitions – Career goals and personal trajectory. How do these fall in line with where you are applying?

Fears and handicaps, to the extent that you have overcome these, including how you overcame them (only if relevant to your current application-goal)

What you think the fellowship, program, institution offers you? Be specific enough to demonstrate knowledge of the fellowship, program, or institution.

What you think you will offer the fellowship, program, or institution? You may decide not to state these things outright, but you should clearly present them in the statement's details without a sense of boasting or bragging.

¹ Adapted from <http://www.whitesmoke.com/how-to-write-a-personal-statement>