

BSC (HONS) SOCIAL WORK AND MSC SOCIAL WORK PERSONAL STATEMENT GUIDE

Thank you for taking an interest in our Social Work programmes. We very much look forward to welcoming you to the University of Hertfordshire, so you can join our thriving community!

In addition to your academic qualifications, we are also very interested in your personal statement that you include with your application. We select who we invite to an interview based on both of these, so it is very important that you get this right! We will only be able to invite you for an interview if you meet the required standard for both your qualifications AND your personal statement. We know that sometimes it can be difficult to know what to include in your personal statement, so we have put together this brief guide. We hope that telling you what we expect to see in it, will help you write it!

WHAT WE EXPECT IN YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT

1. Why are you interested in Social Work as a career?

Tell us what makes you want to become a social worker. How does it suit with your personality and your character? What has inspired you to become one and what are you hoping to achieve as a social worker? What are your aspirations for yourself, the people you will be supporting, and society in general?

2. What is your understanding of the scope, values, and code of ethics of the social work profession?

We want to see that you are aware of the great variety of areas you can work as a social worker. A good starting place to find out more about this (and other social work-related information) is the website of the British Association of Social Workers (www.basw.org.uk). We cannot stress enough how important it is for you to explore this website, so make sure you do! Also, don't forget to read about the work values and code of ethics (links below):

- basw.co.uk/about-basw/code-ethics
- hcpc-uk.org/standards/standards-of-proficiency/social-workers-in-england

In your personal statement, make sure you tell us what you have done to research the social work profession and anything that you have learnt or discovered.

3. Do you have any experience of observing or working with a Social Worker? What have you learnt from this?

- There is nothing better than having first-hand experience of what a Social Worker does at work! This will help you see what it is all about and appreciate the various areas they work in.
- It can be hard to get direct experience of social work, but there are alternatives: for example, many of our applicants do have experience in the social care sector, working in care and support services, in the community or in residential settings.
- Others have not done paid work in caring, but have volunteered in their communities and organisations. Such voluntary work still counts as experience.
- Finally, some of our applicants have themselves (or a family member or friend) used the services of a social worker. This is called "lived" experience and also counts.
- We don't have a minimum or maximum time that we expect you to do work experience or observation for. What really matters is that you are able to draw from any kind of relevant experience you may have and demonstrate in your personal statement your understanding about social work as a helping profession. We want to see what drives your desire to pursue a social work career.

4. What interests, hobbies or other experiences have you gained prior to your application to the University of Hertfordshire?

- In addition to all the above, we want to know a bit about you as well. What are your interests? Do you play any sports? Or do you have any hobbies? Do you want to tell us things you have achieved and are proud of? This is your chance!