



www.letsdogre.com

What is a Statement of Purpose?

A statement of purpose (SOP), sometimes referred to as a personal statement in a number of US universities, is a key element of a graduate school application (MS/PhD) that conveys admissions committees members about yourself; who you are, what your academic and professional interests are, and how you'll add value to the graduate program if offered the admission. It is a portrayal of who you are as a person, your motivations, long-term and short-term career goals and your academic background. It tells everything about you in a nutshell of words.

Basically, it's a mini biography of a student presented in the best possible way. While most universities ask for an SOP in an essay format in a couple of pages, a few ask for it in a questionnaire format. A great SOP can get you admission with the scholarship.

[Click this link below to access a study abroad Statement of Purpose sample pdf.](#)

Why is Statement of Purpose Important?

While the SOP is not the only part of your comprehensive profile that helps you get accepted into any university, it is the only subjective part of your application where you get to tell your own story in your own words.

Moreover, the main objective of the SOP is to give your application a human touch.

Because your test scores, work experience and extracurricular activities will only share a part of your personality. But your SOP will bring into light other traits and qualities of your personality which the objective parts of your application could not.

Particularly, one word which can't be stressed enough while drafting an SOP is "uniqueness".

Because, while the universities will get many applicants with straight As and extraordinary test scores, it is your story through your SOP that will set you apart.

Statement of Purpose for Different Courses and Degrees

Markedly, the Statement Of Purpose as well as the Statement Of Purpose format for a masters degree will be significantly different from that for undergraduate admissions. Moreover, even within the masters program, the Statement Of Purpose and the Statement Of Purpose format will be different for different courses.



www.letsdogre.com

Let us take a look at the SOP guidelines for some of the most popular courses and degrees below.

Statement of Purpose for PhD

Share your future aspirations and career goals you wish to achieve once you complete your PhD. Also, which is the field of study you want to pursue and your reasons for doing so.

In addition to that, elaborate on the research work undertaken by you in the past during your masters in your SOP. Also include your research work done during undergraduate degree in your Statement Of Purpose for PhD. Furthermore, how does that align with the research you intend to do during your PhD and even after that? Along with that, also share any of your papers you might have published in the past.

Also, elaborate on your master's thesis project and any work experience you might have had in the past.

[Link for phd statement of purpose example.](#)

Statement of Purpose for Masters (MS)

Share your career goals you hope to accomplish after finishing off with your M.S. Degree from that particular university.

Furthermore, do you have any prior work experience in the field of the degree you are currently applying for a master in? If yes, share your experience and all that you have learnt from it.

Also elaborate on your final year project you must have completed during your undergraduate degree. Also, include any publications you might have in your Statement Of Purpose for masters.

[Click on this link for a statement of purpose sample for masters degree.](#)

Statement of Purpose for MBA

Likewise, for the Statement Of Purpose for MBA, share your long-term and short term career goals with the Admission Board. Also share how your prior work experience, if any, aligns with your goals.

While writing a Statement Of Purpose for MBA, elaborate on your work experience, during and/or after your undergraduate degree. Moreover, talk about the leadership traits you showed during any instance, and what all did you learn from your work.



www.letsdogre.com

Also share why an MBA Degree at this point in your career is necessary. What direction do you plan to give to your career after finishing off the degree? Furthermore, what contributions do you look forward to making for society in your Statement Of Purpose for MBA.

Link for a statement of purpose example for MBA.

Statement of Purpose for Undergraduate

While writing a Statement Of Purpose for Undergraduate programme, your time in highschool is the most important part to be highlighted.

Therefore, write about all your extracurricular activities and accomplishments you did outside of your school's curriculum.

Also, even within school, were you a part of any of the clubs? Likewise, did you hold any position of leadership in that club? What were your contributions to the club?

Furthermore, you can also share any of the volunteer or social service work you did. Additionally, how have you contributed to your community?

Moreover, did you take up any internships while in school? If yes, share how the experience helped you broaden your horizon in any way or your learnings from it.

Likewise, did you win any awards in any competitions? Furthermore, did you hold any positions of leadership in your school council like the President or House Captain? But while mentioning these, remember the thumb rule- do not sound as if you are bragging. Always have a humble approach while highlighting these points.

Remember:

Remember that other parts of your application will include all the beforehand. But SOP is the space where you elaborate on what these extracurriculars and achievements mean to you at a personal level and the intangibles that you have learnt from them.

Also, do your extracurricular activities and internships in any way align with your intended major you are applying for at that particular university?

Part Time Jobs and Family Responsibilities:

At times, students might have to take up part-time jobs due to family responsibilities which might not leave them with time to pursue other extracurriculars. Under such circumstances, don't be dejected if you feel that this will put you behind everyone else in the race. Family responsibilities and part-time jobs are an equally important part of your personality. These show your ability to take up responsibilities and moral character. You should definitely share them with the universities you are applying to.



www.letsdogre.com

You can find a statement of purpose example by clicking on this link.

*These are just some of the many bullet points to consider while writing a Statement Of Purpose for PhD, Statement Of Purpose for Masters (M.S.), Statement Of Purpose for MBA and Statement Of Purpose for Undergraduate.

You can find a study abroad Statement of Purpose sample here.

Click on this link for a phd statement of purpose example, a statement of purpose sample for masters degree, statement of purpose example for MBA, and a statement of purpose sample for undergraduate.

How To Write a Stellar Statement Of Purpose?

Plan Well Ahead of Time:

Start working on your SOP early and go through as many drafts as possible before locking the final draft.

Moreover, it is advisable to show your drafts to someone trustworthy and someone who knows you well. You can do this in order to gauge whether your SOP is truly bringing out unique traits of yours or not. Because, sometimes we are way too much in love with our own writing. Consequently, we overlook certain parts which necessarily do not add any value or substance to the essay. These just end up taking up word space which can instead be used in a much better way.

What To Write in Your SOP?

Most of the time, a prompt will be given to you for your SOP. Stick to it.

Also, highlight important events of your life that show character and unique qualities of you to the Admission Officers. Furthermore, include any relevant academic or extracurricular achievements that demonstrate your interest in your intended major for which you will be applying to the university or anything relevant to the prompt in question. But make sure you do not use a bragging voice while doing so. Always remember to be as subtle and humble as possible.

Most importantly, write what compliments your overall application, and not what you think the AOs want to read. At all times, be transparent and your true self.

What Not To Include In Your SOP?

Most students have seen a drop in their grades at least once in their academic careers. If it was nothing major which needs to be explained, do not talk about it in your SOP.



www.letsdogre.com

Because it will unnecessarily highlight your fall in grades which as such happens to almost all students.

Gap Years or Career Breaks:

If you were ever on a gap year, try explaining your reasons for the same in your SOP. Was it out of choice, or was it because of some medical condition due to which you had to take a gap year. Whatever be the reason, you can turn the tables in your favour. Explain all that you learnt during that phase of your life. You can further explain how it has helped you evolve and how it has shaped your mindset.

Similarly, if you were ever on a break in your career, you can explain that in your SOP too. Let the Admission Board know your reasons for the same.

Why That Particular University?

The universities know that they have a lot of resources to provide to their students. But you have to demonstrate to them how you will be able to use them efficiently.

Of all the things that the university has to offer, what is it that you are most excited about? Moreover, what is it about that university that appeals to you the most?

Also tell them what it is about their specific academic program you are applying to that interests you the most.

What Do You Bring to Their University?

Most importantly, you have to understand that it is a two way process.

Therefore, you should demonstrate how you will be a good fit for them. Furthermore, how do your goals and vision complement the motto of their university? Also, what do you have to offer to their incoming class? Do you bring cultural diversity or any past work experience that makes you stand apart?

But remember to make sure to not look as if you are bragging. Highlight your unique points humbly.

Language to be used:

You should not use excessive jargon and difficult vocabulary. Write your SOP in the way you talk in your daily life. Because this is yet another reflection of your personality. You should make it as unique as it can be in order to stand apart from the crowd.

At the same time, you should not use slang terminologies every now and then as well. You must remember that at the end of the day, your SOP is an *official* essay. Always be very careful with your choice of words.



www.letsdogre.com

If using humour, you must be very cautious, because you do not want it to backfire.

Word Limit:

Most universities will provide a word limit to be followed while submitting your SOP, and the golden rule is to stick to it. Because the Admissions Officers (AOs) are going to read thousands of applications. And you don't want to make their job tedious by writing over the limit.

In case a word limit is not mentioned, you should keep your SOP in the word range of 750-1000. Or, in other words, 1-2 pages long.

Statement of Purpose for Scholarship

Certain universities might ask you to write a separate Statement Of Purpose for Scholarships in case you apply for one. Moreover, you might also need to write your SOP based on certain prompts. You also have to take care of word limits while writing your SOP.

You have to explain in your Statement Of Purpose for scholarships why you need or deserve that scholarship. You should also explain why you should be awarded the scholarship among thousands of other candidates applying for the same. But again, in a humble way.

You should explain, only if required/asked for, any family or financial background due to which you need the scholarship.

Link for a phd statement of purpose example, a statement of purpose sample for masters degree, statement of purpose example for MBA, a statement of purpose sample for undergraduate and study abroad Statement of Purpose.