Applying to University
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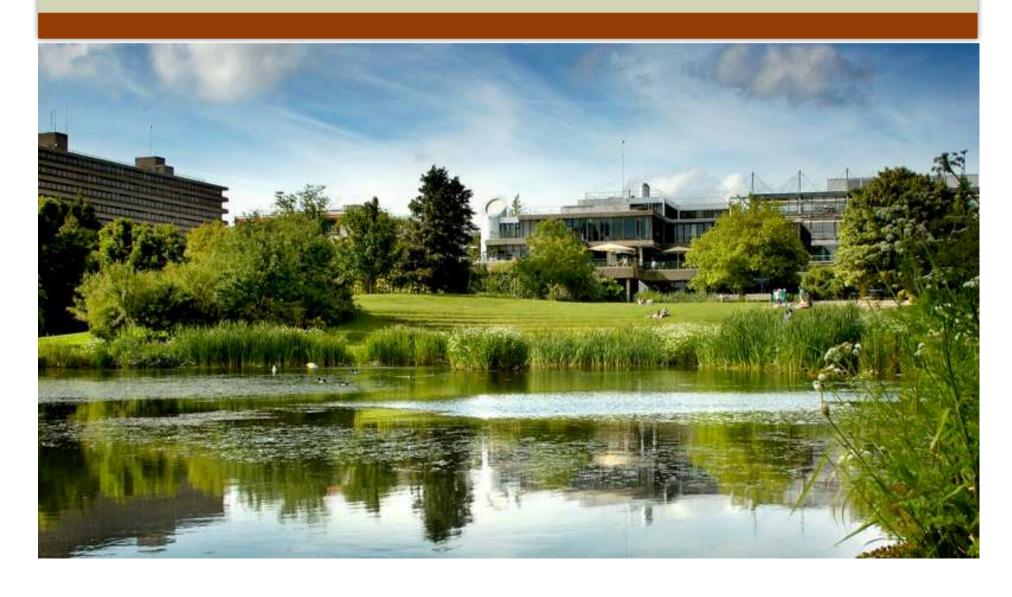# University of Bath

UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

Admissions 2011

- Applications up nationally by around 5%
- Universities given very strict cap on Home/EU numbers
- Cautious decision making
- At Bath fierce competition for an increased number of programmes leading to some changes in admissions procedures

What an offer is based on

- School leavers: GCSE/Level 2 qualifications profile
- Mature applicants: APEL or relevant experience
- References
- Personal Statement
- Work experience
- Evidence of additional study such as Extended Project, Open University units
- Significant extra-curricular activity such as sport, music etc
- Extenuating circumstances

What is the Personal Statement?

- Your students' opportunity to tell us what is special about them

- Why is their current study relevant?

- How do their personal experiences support their application?

What should they include?

- Why they want to study this particular course
- What they can offer
- What they hope to do with their degree

What not to include

- Lists of qualifications taken or to be taken (these are already on the UCAS form)

- Grammatical errors or spelling mistakes!

- Too much information about achievements and experiences that you cannot directly relate to your academic aims

What subject are you applying for?

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Music has been more than just music in my life. At the age of thirteen I was studying music at XXX which is one of the best schools in xxx. As a teenager I used to enjoy listening to music and then I realised I wanted to be more than just a listener that's when I got involved in a local youth music club were we used to learn how to write, record and compose.

I always listen to music to help me keep my mind focused and relaxed. Writing songs is something that I have done since I was a young boy for the past years I have managed to build my own home studio

At the age fifteen I then decided to include I.T because I have many interests in this subject especially web design and internet technology. In 2005 I then moved to XXX and I started my BTECs in Business and ICT at XXX and I gained more experience in web-design . To be successful these subjects I must take a closer view to I.T not just Communication and web-design.

I think that my interest in Business and Music experience will open new perspective for me if i study at this University. Working voluntarily as a Sales assistant provided valuable experience in my business and these duties developed skills in communication and customer service. My passion for business increased when I won the business man award with footlocker in 2007.

Doing computers is the only thing that i can see myself doing in future and its something that i always dreamed of doing when i was a little boy. Doing this course at this University is the only thing that will open up the doors to my future because i am ready to give everything to this course.

A good opening

"Why do people behave the way they do??" is a question that first sparked my interest and continues to fuel my curiosity into psychology. The reasons and processes underlying human behaviour, whether it be of a person with schizophrenia, interactions between my younger brothers, or simply how someone behaves at a bus stop all intrigue me. Studying psychology at college therefore has been fascinating in letting me understand interactions of the mind and behaviour with the outside world. I was particularly stimulated by social psychology and the work of researchers such as Milgram/Zimbardo/Ash, that interested me into how under certain circumstances humans can be made to act totally against their natural instincts. Memory and abnormality were also areas of heightened interest that I am hungry to study from a deeper biological approach. In the future I hope to go into the area of educational psychology.

Other experience

Furthermore, I feel that I already have skills which are necessary to Business and Management. I am part of a French Hip Hop troupe and as a member of this troupe, I give dance classes to younger children. This helped me realise that I enjoy being in charge of a group. I've also had the opportunity to plan some of our dance shows: pick a date and place, order the costumes, design and send out the invitations. I like handling responsibilities, and organising these events has taught me to be on schedule and dependable.

Other experience

I have had a weekend job in a retail business for about a year giving me real experience of a work environment. It has required me to develop organisation skills to manage the workload of fulltime education and given me a real insight into the challenges of being part of a workforce with a wide range of academic ability. My formal work experience at school was split between a recording studio and an architects practice. The recording studio helped me understand the complexity of making a recording and the need for efficient organisation as well as providing a fascinating glimpse of the world of professional musicians. The architect's practice provided an excellent example of the need to balance a variety of requirements to achieve a high quality design.

I have helped organise two bands and an acoustic duo with friends.

What or who inspires you?

I played tennis at national level from age 13 to 15 and my coach studied Sports Psychology. She regularly interviewed me about my match play and provided me with various psychological techniques to improve, such as mental preparation, affirmation and visualisation. This led me to read books about how to improve my game mentally, e.g. 'The Inner Game of Tennis' by W.T. Gallwey and 'How to Win at Tennis' by P. Douglas, particularly ch.7 entitled 'Tennis is Mental'. These factors sparked my interest in Psychology and the benefits of applying it to my sporting performance.

How important is the personal statement?

Extremely important for

- **Selective, competitive programmes**
- **Many arts/humanities programmes**
- **Vocational programmes which require work experience**
- **Learners coming through non-standard routes**
- **May form basis of interview**

How do you support students with their personal statements?

- **Be wary of providing complete examples**
- **Suggest use of action words that convey a sense of participation, involvement and accomplishment: instigated, invented, wrote, designed, created**
- **Accomplishment versus information**
- **Encourage your students to be as reflective and analytical as possible**

It must be

- Focused
- Convey motivation and enthusiasm
- 70-80% directly relevant
- Be checked by tutor or subject teacher

The UCAS Reference

- Cannot underestimate its importance
- You know your students – we don't
- Will be read
- May be scored

What we need

- **Relevant information about the school/college context**
- **Predicted grades**
- **Profile of academic skills**
- **Individual relevant personal circumstances**
- **Participation in special programmes**
- **Relevant information about qualifications**
- **Honesty (fairness) the system depends on it**

Introduction: context

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Our college offers A level, BTEC and Access to HE programmes to students from the local area. Over 30% of our students receive EMA payments and 25% are from widening participation backgrounds

Academic performance

- **Subject by subject report**
- **Details from subject teachers**
- **Best or most relevant subject first**
- **Predicted grades**
- **Include all qualifications, key skills etc**

Personal qualities and difficulties

Consider applicant holistically
- Motivation to learn, self-discipline
- Team working attendance

Any special needs
- How have they affected their studies?

Individual circumstances that are relevant
- Setbacks
- Personal trauma

Conclusion

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The reference should end with a final summary and recommendation for suitability for a higher education course.

The application is the result of much careful thought and thorough research………is an intelligent and modest young man whose intellectual ability, study skills and interest make it clear that he would be highly successful on ………

Summary

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- **Opening paragraph**
- **Introduce the applicant**
- **Subject entries**
- **Personal qualities (related to learning)**
- **Concluding recommendation**