



ICMP

The Institute
of Contemporary
Music Performance

Application Guidance

Writing your Personal Statement

icmp.ac.uk



Writing your Personal Statement

Stand out from the crowd by showcasing who you are and what you can bring to ICMP as you begin your exciting journey through music education.

Your personal statement is a chance to add further weight to your application, showcasing your current experience, drive and aspirations. It's an important part of our application process as it's an opportunity for you to talk about yourself and your passions, outside of your grades.

Suggested structure:

Your personal statement should be around 400-500 words in length and you're welcome to structure it however you see fit. As a starting point, we'd suggest considering the following basic structure:

1. Demonstrate your passion for your subject, areas of interest, particular aspects you have enjoyed/excelled in.
2. Detail your enrichment activities, wider reading and engagement with your subject of choice.
3. Show why you are suited to the course, explain extra-curricular activities you have completed and how you are a well-rounded candidate.

Planning your Statement

Think about...

- Why are you applying to ICMP. Look at the course descriptors, think about the qualities, skills and experiences you might require.
- Your ambitions - what interests you about the subject, higher education
- What makes you suitable - experience, skills, achievements
- Any clubs/societies you belong to | sports, music, creative
- Volunteering or work experience you have completed
- International applicants, what attracts you to studying in the UK
- Postgraduate applicants- How does your previous undergraduate study relate to the course- if this is in a different subject, why the change in subject area

! Think: In order to prepare myself for studying the following course, what have I engaged with and which skills have I developed?



Planning your Statement

Section 1: Demonstrating your interest

You need to demonstrate your genuine interest to convince the university you are applying to that you are the best fit for their course.

Think about:

- Where does your passion come from?
- What are your future intentions, how will this course support you achieving this?
- What excites you about your chosen course?
- What have you done to find out more?

Section 2: Opportunities, skills, interests

This is your evidence section, where you reflect on your enrichment activities; work experience, lectures, books and articles you have read. This is the start to demonstrating your interest.

Think about:

- How can you align your interest to the opportunities you have undertaken and the skills you have developed?
- What have you engaged with to further your knowledge?
- What are you particularly curious about?
- Have you engaged with lectures, literature, work experience?
- Why, what was your reflection? Consider your achievements; in work, school, university overcoming situations.

Planning your Statement

Section 3: Standing out

Here, you need to focus on what makes you 'you'. Focus on your interests beyond academic studies to show that you will be successful in university life as a whole.

Think about:

- Your extra-curricular activities, community work, volunteering
- What makes you a well-rounded student
- Your intentions for the future having studied this course

DOS

- Be enthusiastic about studying your chosen subject
- Know what the course requires and how you meet this
- Discuss your enrichment opportunities and relate to the subject/intentions
- Be authentic and honest about your achievements/interests

DON'TS

- Make sure you're selling yourself, but not by being arrogant
- Avoid gimmicky or cheesy first lines
- Don't use clichés - avoid phrases like "wanted to be a singer since I was born"
- Don't copy other people's statements, not even small phrases. All statements are run through plagiarism software.



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Any questions?

If you have any questions about writing your personal statement, please contact the ICMP Admissions team on: 020 7328 0222 or at enquiries@icmp.ac.uk

We look forward to reading your personal statement.