

# My personal statement



## (INTRODUCTION)

On my 4th birthday, my parents took me to Colchester Zoo for the first time. Sitting perched up at the largest window was a huge male Orang-utan, a 'King of the jungle' and yet those eyes so familiar. I gazed in awe, oblivious that this encounter would in fact mould my future. I became obsessed with animals, Orang-utans in particular, and spent most of my childhood fundraising for these critically endangered apes. It is this passion that has turned into my ambition to make a difference and pursue a career as a Zookeeper. I know I have the determination to succeed and that is why I am applying to study Animal Science.

*(Characters used = 625, characters remaining = 3375)*

Dividing your page into an 'introduction, main and conclusion' will help you focus your mind and keep an eye on your character limit.

- Engages the reader.
- Stands out from crowd.
- Short and sweet and kept to the point.
- Gives the reader an idea of the sort of person I am.

Always mention the course you're applying for, and if possible, mention your career goal too.

It is a good idea to keep a tally going of how many characters you have used and how many you have spare until you reach the 4000 character limit.

## (MAIN BODY OF TEXT)

Aside from fundraising, I am also a highly organised person. This skill comes in very useful when planning events for my friends and family, which is something I have enjoyed doing since a young age. I have successfully organised birthdays parties, hen dos and garden parties ensuring all guest communications are correct and a high standard maintained throughout catering, decorations and entertainment. Event planning is something I enjoy doing alongside studying at college and part-time work as a waitress.

If you are stating a skill or personal quality then always explain what you mean or give real-life examples.

Having studied Level 3 Diploma in Animal Management at college, I feel academically prepared for university studies and have a good foundation of knowledge and experience of the animal world which will aid me during my degree.

I have undertaken various work experience placements at college which have given me great insight into how different establishments work within the animal industry. My experience ranged from being till trained and very customer sales focused at a Tropical Pet Shop, to general cleaning and feeding of birds, mammals and reptiles at a well-known animal farm to assisting with animal training, public experiences and zoo-keeping duties at one of the country's most popular zoos. Being adaptable means I can quickly familiarise myself with new tasks and I believe this is something that will help be greatly both at university and in a zoo keeping career.

Always mention any work experience that you have done that relates to the course that you are applying for or the career that you are aiming for and briefly explain your main duties.

Alongside studying at college, I also work part-time as a Silver Service Waitress at a local wedding venue and hope to continue this whilst studying for my degree. This role has equipped me with many life skills that shall aid me in my future. I can communicate well to a variety of audiences including young children, adults of all ages and abilities and professional colleagues as well as being bar and silver-service trained. This means delivering an excellent food and beverage service to weddings, funerals, proms and celebration parties as well as meeting the demands of customer enquiries, time management and setting up of all events.

I feel that this experience, particularly the customer facing skills will come in great use as a Zookeeper, especially when running public experiences or answering questions which are common dealings in most UK zoos.

All of the experience above has perfected my ability to work alone and think on my feet as well as play a key role when working as part of a team. I enjoy the responsibility given to me when working on my own and believe that my self-motivation will help me to succeed at university, especially when conducting research and writing assignments. However, I do thoroughly enjoy being part of a team and find teamwork both rewarding and a chance to develop my leadership skills.

If you have a part-time job, always mention this as it shows the reader that you can juggle school/college studies alongside work. Briefly explain your main duties and skills you have developed.

These are always good skills to mention and explain or give examples of, especially if you are struggling to use the 4000 character limit.

*(Characters used = 2725, characters remaining = 650)*

Keep an eye on your character usage and limit.

## (CONCLUSION)

I feel very lucky to have gained such a variety of experience all of which has developed my skills and knowledge of the animal world.

I know that university will build on this further and prepare me even more for the career that I have been dreaming of since that first visit to Colchester Zoo. My ability to work under pressure and adapt quickly to changing scenarios will help me to meet assignment deadlines and manage my study workload and my excellent time management will ensure that I arrive to all lectures on time. Being one step closer to achieving my goal excites me greatly and I know that I will thrive as a student at your university.

Keep the conclusion concise and conclude all points.

End on a positive note and never mention any university name(s).

*(Characters used = 650, characters remaining = 0)*

Do a final character check to make sure that you haven't exceeded 4000 characters. Copy and paste your finished Personal Statement into your university application form on UCAS, but check that the final sentence hasn't been removed as sometimes the character limit differs on their website.