

How to Write a Statement of Purpose

For students who are applying for their first visa

These Statement of Purpose (SOP) guidelines are to be used to answer the University's Genuine Temporary Entrant (GTE) question and may also be used to address the GTE question on the visa application portal. Students can upload their completed SOP together with other documents on the visa application portal at the time they submit their visa application.

NOTE: All SOP's must be written by the student in their own words (not by the agent or a family member) and should match the student's current English ability. Maximum 3 pages in length.

Generally, the SOP should include details about:

- **Personal economic circumstances in the home country – *this is extremely important and must be addressed properly:***
 - Student should detail family composition, number of dependents (if any), family income, family employment details, assets (such as investments, property, vehicle etc.) and liabilities (mortgages etc).

- **Study or work gaps longer than 6 months:**
 - Student should provide explanation and attach documentary evidence to support the claims.

- **Course/s of study being undertaken:**
 - Student should include all courses that the student is intending to study at the University of Canberra, e.g. English – Diploma – Bachelor etc.
 - Include details about the curriculum of all courses being undertaken.

- **The reason for the student to choose University of Canberra**
 - An explanation of why the student has selected to study at the University of Canberra
 - The student will need to list other Australian providers that they have also applied to and what was the outcome of that application
 - If no application to other Australian providers explain why not

- **The reason for the student to choose study in Australia instead of home country or usual country of residence**
 - Explain the value of the UC course compared to a similar course in home country
 - For any incomplete qualifications from the home country, explain why they are transferring to UC and not finishing current course
 - Provide a list of institutions in their home country they have either applied to or have conducted research on
 - Provide specific details on how they conducted their research (eg. web search, attending marketing events, meetings with institution staff etc)

- **Details of planned living arrangements in Australia**
 - Where they will live in Canberra, eg. with relatives, home stay, Uni accommodation etc.
 - Include details of any partner/spouse, children, siblings, relatives or friends who are in Australia, especially if they intend to reside with any of the above during their study at UC

- **The relevance of the course/s to the student's academic and/or employment background**
 - Explain how the intended course at UC is related to any previous study or employment
 - If the intended course is unrelated to previous study or employment explain the reason for the change in career
 - If the course is lower or at the same level as previous qualifications (eg. have a bachelor and applying to study bachelor at UC), explain the reason for undertaking a lower or same level qualification which is at a considerable financial cost

- **The relevance of the course/s to the student's future career and/or educational plans**
 - Provide information on the sort of employment they will be seeking on completion of their studies at UC and in what country
 - Include information on all the research undertaken in respect of their future career after completing the course/s, including:
 - If the student will return to current employer, what is the likely salary increase on completion of intended course. Provide evidence of this increase, eg. current job advertisements etc.
 - names of companies in their home country whom they have approached
 - details of any other countries (including Australia if applicable) where they would consider applying for positions following graduation
 - details of the type of position they would be eligible for upon graduation. Include evidence of email communication, research on company's website or employment websites
 - Information on the salaries for each company researched. Include details for similar roles and include copies of website information, email communication etc.

NOTE: *Students who are undertaking study at UC for the purpose of establishing a business on return will need to submit business plans and other evidentiary requirements to support this claim.*