



University of
Strathclyde
Humanities &
Social Sciences

PGDE Education: Personal Statement Guidance

www.strath.ac.uk/humanities

Question 1: Why do want to study this course or subject?

Each answer will have a **minimum character count of 350 characters**, which is clearly labelled on the question boxes, along with an overall character counter, so you can keep track. The **4,000 overall character limit** (including spaces) remains the same, as does what you're expected to include.

This is your opportunity to showcase your passion and knowledge of your chosen subject area and to demonstrate to universities and colleges why it's a good fit for you and your future ambitions.

Why are you applying?

- Explain why you want to be a teacher and why you think you are suited to the teaching profession. Be specific about why you have chosen your particular primary/secondary subject area. Have you been inspired by a key role model or moment in your life? Maybe it's a subject you love and want to pursue further.
- If you have been out of education for more than 10 years, explain why you've decided to change direction and apply to university at this point in your life.
- If your primary goal is to train for a new career, show you're aware of the specific challenges of that career, and that you've researched it before you apply.

What is your understanding of the role of a teacher?

- Explain what you understand the role of a teacher to be. You can use examples of your experience to reinforce this section.

What is your knowledge of the curriculum for excellence?

- Elaborate on your knowledge of the education system in Scotland and of the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence.

Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare or this course or subject

This is your chance to provide information about the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and/or professional experience and to highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.

Your degree suitability

- Briefly explain why the content of your university studies makes you a suitable candidate. For secondary courses, you should clearly indicate the aspects of your degree that meet the specific entry requirements. For primary courses, you should identify the aspects of your degree that cover the range of subject areas relevant to the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence.
- If you are no longer in full-time education or your degree is more than 5 years old, talk about your experiences since leaving University and how this has equipped you with the necessary skills and qualities required for a career in teaching.
- Why do you want to teach this subject?
- Why do you want to work with that age group?

Skills gained through your studies or relevant work experience

- This is your chance to highlight the relevant or transferable skills you've gained from your formal education and/or professional experience. Try to highlight your understanding of how they will help you succeed in this subject area.
- Examples of skills we look for are patience; communication; leadership; organisation; time management; creativity; listening; motivation

Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

This is your chance to talk about any other activities you have undertaken outside of your formal education or personal experiences which further demonstrate your suitability for the course. This section is likely to be highly personal to you and anything you do include should reflect on why you're including it.

Relevant experience with children/young and reflection on experience

- Provide details of the amount of classroom experience you have had and where this has taken place. Talk a little about what you did and where and say what skills and knowledge you have gained from this. Also include any other work experience you have done with children, e.g. Brownies, Scouts, nursery and after school clubs.

Your transferable skills and outside interests

- Give an indication of your work/life balance by including any long-term hobbies or interests you have; e.g. playing a musical instrument, drama, sports, Duke of Edinburgh award or any voluntary work you do. Explain how this might be useful in your teaching.



University of Strathclyde

Humanities & Social Sciences