MA Social Work 2017/2018

Expectations of personal statements

Spelling, grammar, writing

• Spelling should be accurate
• The statement should be grammatically correct
• The statement should be fluently written and coherent
• The statement should be logically structured, with clear paragraphs used correctly
• The statement should not be descriptive but rather should analyse motivation, academic development and previous experience

Content

The statement should address the following areas

• Motivation for social work
• Relevance of previous experience to social work
• Relevance of previous study with a focus on how study at an undergraduate level has prepared the candidate for post-graduate work

Characteristics of a good statement

A good statement should highlight some or all of the following

• A capacity to study at post-graduate level and enthusiasm for the subject
• An awareness of the demands of a vocational course
• The capacity to manage working in a stressful environment
• Both professional and personal motivation for social work as a career
• The relevance of previous study to the MA Social Work looking at course content and/or skills and academic achievement at undergraduate level

• The relevance of previous experience making clear links to social work particularly where work experience is not directly in social care

• Analytical skills

• Reflection on the candidates strengths and areas they hope they will develop on the MA

• Specific successes and achievements in academic work, the work place and professional life, and in life more broadly.