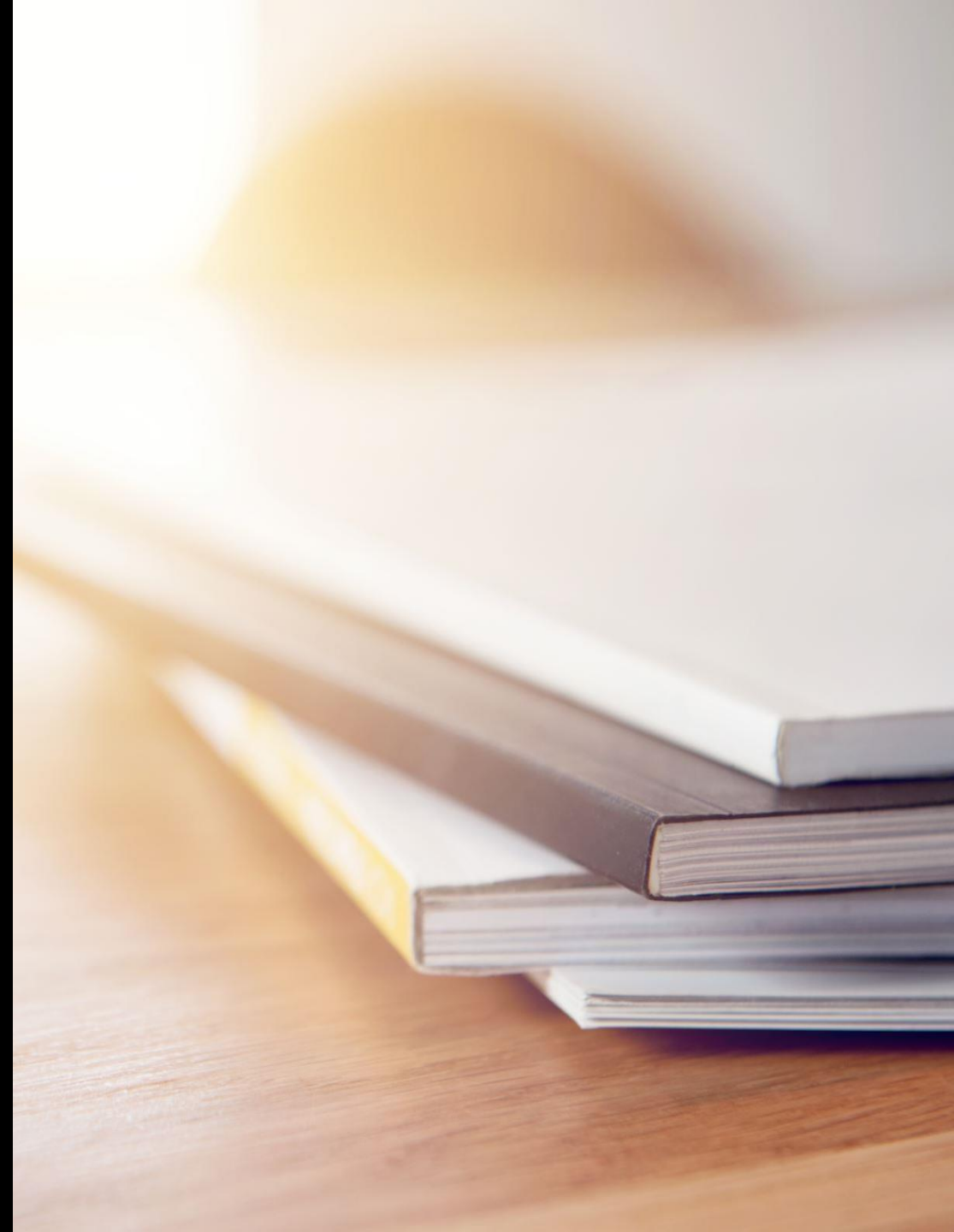# STATEMENT OF PURPOSE (SOP)

WHAT IS SOP ?

- A Statement of Purpose is a **short essay that highlights your educational background, achievements, and goals.**

- It should give a gist of Who you are Who you want to become and how ready you are to pursue a course in the institution.

WHY IS SOP IMPORTANT?

WHAT IS THE GENERAL SOP FORMAT ?

➢ Ideally two pages long.

➢ A standard SOP would be about 800 - 1000 words.

➢ Font size should be 12 and is double space in normal margins.

➢ No colorful text or images should be used.

WHAT DO COLLEGES LOOK FOR IN YOUR SOP?

1. Writing ability

2. Uniqueness

3. With your interest and previous experience, how and what can you contribute to the department and college/university,

4. Your motivation and inspiration to study the selected course.

1ST PARAGRAPH: INTRODUCTION OF SOP

This paragraph is often confused with self-introduction. It should not introduce you but should discuss what you are about to discuss in your SOP. You can adopt the following approaches:

- Discuss your long-term goal and connect it with your idea of pursuing the course you are applying to,

- Present your understanding of the chosen field and write how you want to contribute to that field,

- Explain your background in 2-3 lines and connect it with your future goals,

- Write about an anecdote that helped you realise your professional interest in the chosen field.

Students often make the mistake of introducing themselves or their childhood in the first paragraph. In some cases, students tend to forget about the purpose behind writing an SOP.

2ND AND 3RD PARAGRAPHS: ACADEMIC BACKGROUND AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

These paragraphs must contain your academic background:

what you have done so far (projects, experience, etc.),

what you are currently pursuing, etc.

You can mention your professional experience after your academic achievements. This helps in establishing your career progression.

4TH PARAGRAPH: WHY THIS COURSE?

In this paragraph, you should discuss why you want to join a course and what modules would you like to study. It should also cover the possible skills and exposure that you might acquire that would help you in fulfilling your goals.

5TH PARAGRAPH: CAREER GOALS

This is the most important paragraph, where you should discuss your short and long-term goals.

6TH PARAGRAPH: WHY THIS UNIVERSITY?

Here, you should try to convince the University as to why it is suitable for your goals and why you fit well into its vision and mission. You can discuss the course curriculum, research work, faculty names, as well as university-specific activities. Moreover, do go through the vision and mission statement of the University.

7TH PARAGRAPH: CONCLUSION

This paragraph should conclude your desire and readiness towards joining the chosen course. Since this is the closing paragraph, you should sound focused and prepared for all the challenges that might come your way. It should also show that you have the potential to succeed, and with the help of the chosen course and University, you will definitely make a difference in the industry.

TIPS ON HOW TO WRITE A GOOD STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- ✓ Mention your achievements, professional and academic, in the form of a story rather than statements.

- ✓ An SOP is a reflection of your personality; make sure it is clear and understandable.

- ✓ Mention strong reasons as to why you want to pursue a particular course.

- ✓ Be very clear about the timeline of your achievements.

- ✓ You can also mention your mistakes. But, also give instances of how you tried to rectify them.

- ✓ Proofread and edit the SOP time and again so that it can appear crisp and concise.

MISTAKES TO AVOID WHILE WRITING SOP

If you want to write an outstanding statement of purpose, given below are some of the common mistakes that you should avoid:

- ✓ Writing an SOP without any planning or roadmap.

- ✓ Writing a vague introduction and conclusion.

- ✓ Use of short forms, slang, and informal writing.

- ✓ Exceeding the word limit or writing too less.

- ✓ Making the SOP appear very flattering.