

Questionnaire for Statement of Purpose

The Statement of Purpose is a crucial document as part of your application that will tell the Admissions committee who you are, what has influenced your career path so far, your professional interests and where do you plan to go from here.

It is a tool for the faculty on Admission committees to access the knowledge, experience, motivation, intellectual maturity and readiness of applicants to pursue higher education at their institution.

In order to assist you with your SOP, we require you to answer the following questions to help us understand your motivation to pursue your course at the intended University. There are six major questions that have been further divided into secondary questions. Your involvement and investment of time in providing information against each question will play an important role in creating a unique SOP for you. Please try to answer all the questions in as much detail as possible. Write N/A in front of the question not applicable to you.

Q1. Which course are you interested in and why?

- Why did you choose this particular course? It could be a workshop you attended, an incident, an article, a project, a life experience, etc.
- What interests you about this field? Share any evidence to reflect your interest. Demonstrate your passion for the field; preferably through a practical demonstration (a project, an experiment, a publication, related projects/seminars presented, additional courses studied, etc.)
- Reflect on your intellectual development - what and when were the major moments in your life that have led you to your current course interest? Concentrate on your life experiences and give specific examples.
- Specific classes or special courses that you have taken, which are related to your field of interest. You can also include the online courses that you might have taken.
- What knowledge do you have in this field? What is your opinion about the current status and future of this field?
- What and who influenced your decision and interest (role-model). What quality about them appeals to you?
- Browse through the website of the University's department/program of interest to you and highlight the aspects of the program that appeal to you. These should include 2-3 specific courses and professor names (with their area of expertise)

Q2. Why did you choose to study in this particular country? What do you like about it?

- Do you have any relatives/friends/ seniors studying there? Did they play a role in your decision to study abroad? Share relevant details.

Q3. Why this University?

- Why have you chosen this particular University? Mention what you like about the university you are applying to, and why: facilities, infrastructure, etc.
- What are your expectations from both the program and the university? Highlight the gaps which you have identified in your knowledge, which this course will bridge. Why

are you looking forward to study here, or what skills you are looking to acquire through this course?

- What characteristics of the school/department/program can help you accomplish your goals? Please check if they have any industry specific tie up for hands-on experience.
- Do you have the knowledge of a specific faculty member with whom you would like to work, mention your interest and why? Is the research area aligned to your goals either short term or long term?

Q4. Summarize your previous education and experience.

- Please provide description of your academic background in the field you have chosen.
- Give details of the research you have conducted. Indicate with whom, the title of the project, what your responsibilities were, and the outcome. Write technically, or in the style of your discipline, using words specific to your field. Professors are the people who read these statements. Also discuss any challenges that you might have faced in doing these projects and state how you overcame them.
- Mention any important paper or thesis project you have completed, as well as anything scholarly beyond your curricular requirements.
- Work experience, especially if you had any kind of responsibility for testing, designing, researching or interning in an area similar to what you wish to study in graduate school.
- What does the company do (business activity) and why being in this company has been beneficial for you?
- Your work (training/internship) experience, and why you chose this job and position? What is your job role and what do you like about it?
- Describe your growth and learning in this job and industry. Any challenges you faced and overcame? Any courses you did that are relevant to your choice of major?
- Is your experience related to your choice of degree? If the experience is not aligned to the program you have chosen, indicate why you are switching to the desired course. Write in detail your motivation for changing.

Q5. Discuss the relevance of your past education and activities to the course you are applying?

- Explain any inconsistencies in your records or scores? (Any backlogs or gaps).
- Explain (briefly) any discrepancies in your transcripts, such as a lower GPA in a particular semester/year.
- Mention about your projects/ seminars/ presentations/ publications in your academic field.
- Share your achievements with respect to the course, especially if it has been unusual or notable.
- Mention some of the professors you have studied under, especially if they are well-known in that field. Co-curricular and Extracurricular activities in the field of your interest. Publications or other professional accomplishments in the field (perhaps conference presentations or public readings)
- Any community service or your leadership experience while in college.
- Share any interesting details that prove your claims about yourself, for example, an initiative that you took or idea that you proposed and for which you were appreciated.

Q6. What do you want to do after completing this degree?

- How do you want your career to develop after your studies, for example, you want to do a Ph.D., develop a career in academia, research, development, the public sector, consultancy, etc.?
- If you mention research as your objective, please be specific with which area interests you, keeping in mind the course you have applied for. Is it in line with your goal also your experience and academics?
- How do your interests and goals match with the program you are applying for?
- What do you hope to accomplish in the next couple of years?

Important Note/Tips

- Try to give as many examples as you can give from your present education and experience.
- Get advice from several of your professors, family, and close friends. Ask for stories about yourself.
- Do not copy/paste any matter from anywhere as international universities take plagiarism very seriously.
- Please remember, more information is always preferable to less as far as editing is concerned. We can then decide what to retain and what to delete.