

Guide to the Personal Statement (for Departmental Awards): MMUS/MRES

- Make it professional. Think ‘job application’!
- Keep to the word limit (500 words)
- Demonstrate good English/proofreading
- Make it clear and easy to follow (you can mix bullet points and continuous prose)

Questions you should answer

- Why do you want to do your research?
- How does it link to work you have done already at BA level?
- How have these courses prepared you for postgraduate study?
- What are your longer term objectives? (value added for the taxpayer!)

Your statement should include:

- The course of study you plan to take through your chosen pathway, e.g. with which staff members would you like to work on INTs (for MMUS) and your dissertation project (MMUS and MRES).
- A preliminary idea of your dissertation project, including information on how your previous studies have prepared you for it, and what training and supervision you will require from us to carry it out successfully. You can consult with your prospective supervisor while completing this application.

If you are applying for the **full-fees bursaries in musicology and composition** should outline how our MRES/MMUS will prepare them for PhD study at the University of Southampton.

Comments on previously successful applications:

- ‘those applications which stood out were those which demonstrated innovative, imaginative and independent thinking and approaches’
- ‘gave the impression of being well informed in general on the subject area’
- ‘those which gave us the impression about being well-informed about our MMUS/MRES programme’
- ‘those which gave the impression that we were the right department for that student’

Criteria

Those judging your application will be asking themselves if your application makes a convincing case that you are

- Prepared to excel in our MMUS/MRES programme
- Going to benefit substantially from our MMUS/MRES programme

Make sure that your statement **and your references** speak to your ability to meet these goals!