



Applying to Durham

Presented by
Undergraduate Admissions Team



Applying for 2026/7

- Key Dates and deadlines (Short Video)
- Personal Statements
- Top application tips
- Frequently asked questions
- Decisions
- Colleges



What is a personal statement?

An opportunity to write directly to our admissions selectors and demonstrate what would make you an excellent student at
Durham University



1. Why do you want to study this course or subject?



Why do you like the subject?



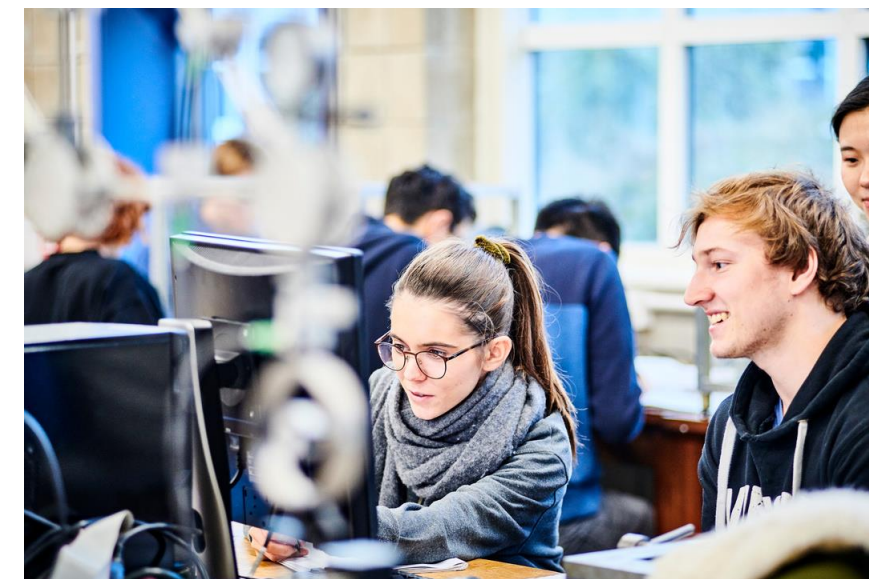
What books or articles have you read that have stood out?



Did this prompt you to do more research? If so, what did you find out?



Is there evidence to support your views?



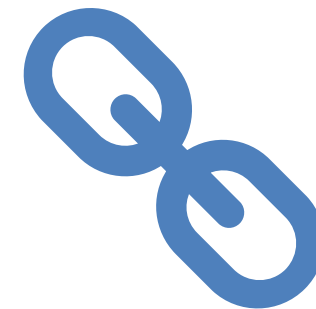
2. How have your qualifications and studies helped you prepare for this course or subject?



Educational challenges or competitions



Reading or research



Transferable skills – How do they link to the course you have applied for?



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



PERSONAL LIFE EXPERIENCES,
ACHIEVEMENTS & RESPONSIBILITIES



WORK EXPERIENCE, EMPLOYMENT
OR VOLUNTEERING



HOBBIES, CLUBS, OR OUTREACH
ACTIVITIES



POST-EDUCATION ACTIVITIES (IF NO
LONGER IN FULL-TIME EDUCATION)

It's about what makes **you** who **you are**



Why does it matter?

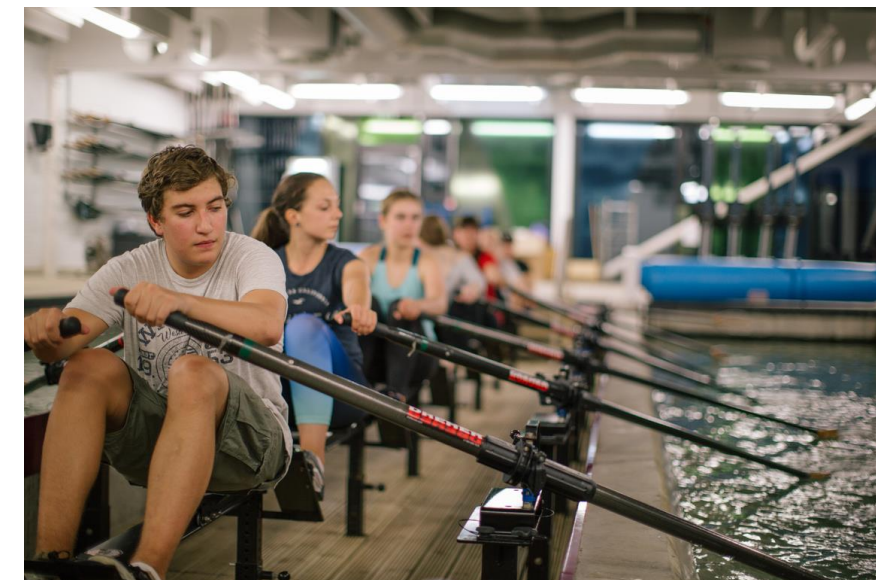
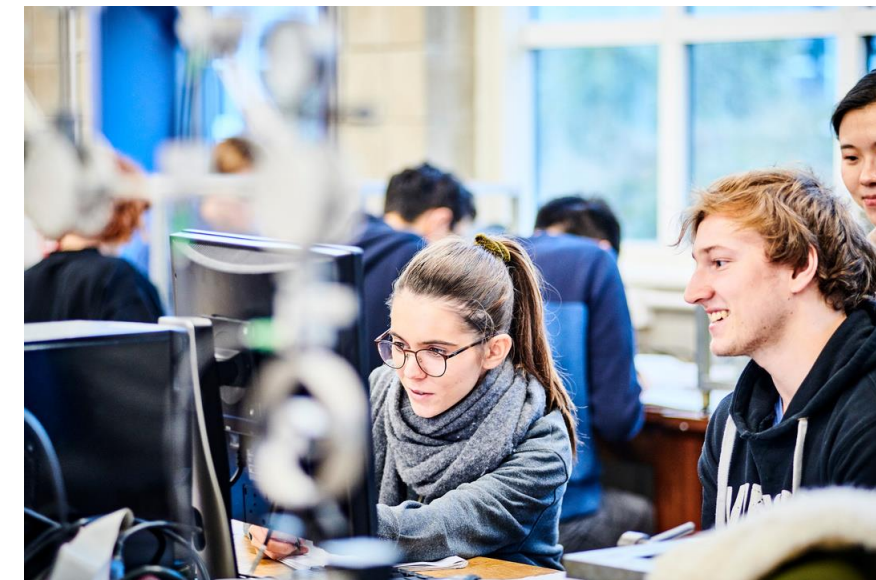
It isn't just about your grades

- We want to know about the person behind the grades

Competitive courses

- High number of applications for limited course places means there is competition
- Students with similar academic profiles

Your opportunity to stand out from the crowd



Durham Substitute Personal Statement

- Optional and only used if you're applying for a different subject with us
- Upload a MS Word document using our upload form within 3 days of submitting to UCAS
- Same parameters as UCAS statement (4000 characters, no formatting)
- Use same UCAS format using the three sections

Top Tips

For writing your personal statement:

- Don't try to be funny!
- Research your courses
- Be specific – use examples and give evidence
- Be authentic and don't copy! We want to hear about YOU!
- Avoid lists and don't waste characters
- Always think about why you're telling us something – what do you want us to take away from it?



When applying:

- Check your deadlines
- Make sure your email address is a personal and not a school one
- Check your study options:
 - Our combined courses have subject choices
 - There's the potential for placement years and study abroad



5

Most
frequently
asked
questions
at our
Open
Days...And
answers!

Can I change my course?

Requests should be
made by the UCAS
deadline
(After this date
subject to
availability)

One request per
admissions cycle

If you're made a
change of course
offer, it won't be
possible to change
back

Do we consider the EPQ?

(Extended project
qualification)

Builds your critical
engagement and
effective essay
writing skills

Support
transferable skills

We value the EPQ
but it would not
form part of your
offer

Can you detect Artificial intelligence in a personal statement?

No software out
there to currently
detect AI at UCAS

All personal
statements are
read by members
of the Admissions
team and it can be
obvious!

*Small differences
in writing style
and terminology*

Do you know where else we've applied?

No, we don't see
your other choices
until you make
your replies at
UCAS.

We don't mind
where else you've
applied – we just
want to recruit the
best applicants
with the most
merit and potential
to succeed on our
courses!

Can I change my year of entry?

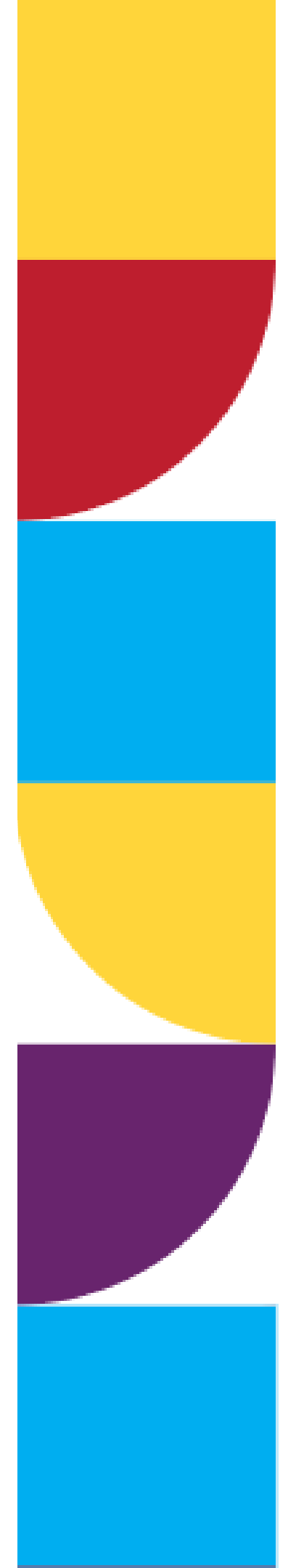
1 Year deferral
considered for
most courses

Where space is
available

How?
Ask Us
Form

We aim to have all ‘on time’ decisions to you by the end of March 2026

*Providing we have all information we require to make the
decision*



Colleges

When you apply through UCAS you don't need to apply to a college.

College allocation takes place separately, only after the point of offer.

To find out more, visit the Information Hub upstairs or join the Colleges and Wider Student Experience sessions throughout the day!



Thank you

dur.ac.uk/study/askus

