

Let's Talk Business

For Ted Rogers School Students

These reports describe industry sectors and career paths of interest to Ted Rogers School students and Alumni. Each report leverages BCH employment data and the expertise of our staff. This collaborative effort engages staff, students, alumni and the University Business Librarian.

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Interested in Applying to Grad School?

Your Guide to Crafting a Personal Statement

A **Statement of Interest**, **Personal Statement** or sometimes called a **Letter of Intent**, is an opportunity for students to tell the Graduate program admissions team a little bit about yourself. A Personal Statement is a key part of your application when applying to Graduate School. Drafting a Personal Statement for your Grad School application gives students an opportunity to write about their professional and academic interests and aspirations. It also gives them the opportunity to expand on which qualifications they possess along with any skills or experiences they have in their portfolio.



- Typically, the Statement of Interest is written in the form of a short essay. It is important to keep in mind that personal statements differ depending on each program that you apply to.
- You must carefully read the specific instructions provided by the Program, to ensure you are writing about what has been asked of you.
- If you have questions about the Program, it is good practice to contact the Institution directly.

What is the Purpose?

- The Statement of Interest is usually requested during the higher education admission process to help the Admissions Committees understand the applicant better.
- The Statement should convince the reader that you have solid achievements that will contribute to your success in the Graduate program.
- However, not all Master's programs require a Statement of Interest. Programs that are heavily based on research-intensive programs are usually the ones to ask for this type of Statement.



Drafting the Statement

When drafting a Personal Statement, you need to explain, in a thorough way, why you should be chosen to join the Program. Some things you can include are:

- A personal narrative and your motivations. An example of this might be you explaining the origin of your interest in the field of study, or any interactions that reinforced your conviction.
- Demonstrate everything by giving an example. Mention anything important that has happened in your life including grades, poverty, illness or anything you feel is relevant.
- Personal characteristics, relevant skills, or qualifications you have. This can include how any of your work, volunteer and academic experiences have prepared you to be a successful candidate.
- Academic background and research interests - This can include area or field of interest or how your research will contribute to your career plan or field of study.

Why this Program/School?

In your Personal Statement you also need to mention why you chose the Program or University you are applying to. Some things you can mention are:

- What is unique about their Program? How does the Program aligns with your interests, strengths and career aspirations.
- Specific Faculty members whose research interests align with your own areas of expertise or who you feel have influenced you and whose research aligns with your interests.
- How the Program/University can help you gain a specific set of expertise in a skill set of interest.
- What you hope to achieve in the field of study or how pursuing the Graduate degree will advance the field.
- You also need to explain how you would be of value to the Program itself. For instance, you should outline how you will contribute or be an asset to the learning environment, and how you can help your peers and the broader community.



The Admission team will be looking for an individual who is self-motivated, competent and has the potential to be successful in the Program. Emphasize, from a positive perspective, and write in an active voice, not passive.



Future Career Aspirations

When drafting a Personal Statement, you need to mention what your career aspirations are. Some things you can include are:

- What types of solutions will you be able to provide given the problem?
- How will you use your Degree/experience through your career?



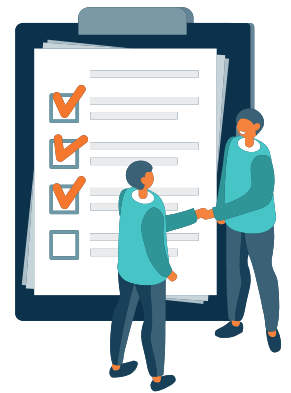
Mention Any Gaps You May Have

- Gaps in your Academic Record should be explained.
- Gaps of time in your Resume or any changes in your Academic program should also be addressed.



Things That Can Be Asked of You

- Your specific area of Academic interest, so thoroughly research the area you are interested in.
- How your previous education and other experiences have prepared you to become a successful candidate in the Graduate program?
- What you hope to achieve during your time in the Graduate program?
- Why this Program is a good fit?



Statement of Interest vs. Cover Letter

| Statement of Interest | Cover Letter |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is not written for a specific position, instead it's an investigation into work at an organization you like.• This type of statement usually has a more self-centered approach.• Offering your own benefits and encounters. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This expresses enthusiasm for a job that has been posted.• Designed for a specific company and position offered, demonstrating why you're the best candidate.• Showing your future employer how you can meet company needs. |

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TMU Grad School

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Graduate Student Guide

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Career Consultant Contributor Sarah Anderson

Sarah is a Career Consultant with 5+ years of experience in the human resource, recruitment, and career services industry. She is passionate about helping clients communicate their value using a strengths-based approach to land meaningful work.



Student Contributor Priyanka Badhan

Priyanka is a 2nd year BTM student working as a Project Coordinator at the BCH. She enjoys traveling and going out with friends and family to try new food places.

Data Sources

1. UBC. (2020) [Statement of Interest](#)
2. BEMO. (2021) [How to Write an Effective Statement of Intent in 2021](#)
3. Berkeley Graduate Division. (2021). [Writing the Statement of Purpose](#)
4. Scholarship Fellow. (2021). [Statement of Interest Vs Cover Letter](#)
5. Toronto Metropolitan University.(2021). [Personal Statements](#)