MSc Psychology / MSc Brain Imaging and Cognitive Neuroscience

Template for the Personal Statement

Please respond to the following questions in your personal statement. The personal statement should be up to 500-words **in total**. It can be text or bullet points. It must include the three sections below with clear headings.

Please note: **Failure to answer each of these sections will result in delays to processing the decision on your application and potential rejection.**

Section 1: Research Experience

1. Briefly describe a research project you have completed. It could be the final year undergraduate project or any other research project where you contributed at least 400 hours (e.g. full-time 12 weeks, part-time 24 weeks).

   Include the following information:

   (a) What was the research area/question?
   (b) Which research tool(s), and method(s) of study design and data collection did you use?
   (c) What type of data was collected (quantitative and/or qualitative)?
   (d) What analysis technique(s) was/were used?
   (e) Who were the participants?
   (f) Was the project a group or an individual project?
   (g) What was your role in the project work (e.g., to develop the research idea, design the study, collect the data, analyse the data, write the report)?
   (h) Please name the academic that supervised you. *It will be good to have a reference from the academic who supervised you, asking them directly to comment on your research skills.

2. Briefly describe any other projects you have worked on as a volunteer or paid research assistant. Focused on the research tools you gained.

Section 2: Research Interests

1. What are your research interests? Briefly describe how your research interests fit within the areas of research expertise in the School of Psychology, University of Birmingham.
2. What research methods and analysis techniques would you like to use or develop as a student on the MSc?
3. What are your future research/career plans? How will a place on the MSc help you to achieve your future research/career plans?
4. Please state the names of three academics within the School that, given the opportunity, you would like to work with. **Please note: If you are offered a place on the MSc, we will contact you about identifying relevant, available supervisors before the course starts. When allocating a supervisor, we will take your preferences into**

account, but there are a number of other factors we consider, so your supervisor may not be one of the academics you have listed.

5. Please state two or three research methods you would like to be trained on.

Section 3: Other Experiences (maximum 200-words)

1. Do you have any experience of computer programming? If Yes, briefly describe your experience.
2. Provide here details of voluntary work experience, other aspects of your CV, and/or other points of achievement.

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