

How to Write a Statement of Purpose

For students who are applying for their first visa and are applying through a UC Study Abroad or Exchange Arrangement

These Statement of Purpose (SOP) guidelines are to be used to answer the University's Genuine Temporary Entrant (GTE) question and may also be used to address the GTE question on the visa application portal. Students can upload their completed SOP together with other documents on the visa application portal at the time they submit their visa application.

NOTE: All SOP's must be written by the student in their own words (not by the agent or a family member) and should match the student's current English ability. Maximum 3 pages in length.

Generally, the SOP should include details about:

- **Personal economic circumstances in the home country – *this is extremely important and must be addressed properly:***
 - Student should detail family composition, number of dependents (if any), family income, family employment details, assets (such as investments, property, vehicle etc.) and liabilities (mortgages etc).
- **The reason for the student choosing the University of Canberra**
 - Students should provide details of the arrangement between the student's home University and the University of Canberra
- **The reason that the student has chosen to undertake the course/s of study listed in the application**
 - Student should explain that they are intending to come to the University of Canberra as an exchange or study abroad student
- **Details of planned living arrangements in Australia**
 - Where they will live in Canberra, eg. with relatives, home stay, Uni accommodation etc.
 - Include details of any partner/spouse, children, siblings, relatives or friends who are in Australia, especially if they intend to reside with any of the above during their study at UC
- **The relevance of the course to the student's future educational plans**
 - Provide information on home university's study abroad/exchange arrangement including where the home university issues credit for successful study completed at UC.
 - Describe how attending the exchange or study abroad course at UC will benefit the course at the home university

NOTE: Students should be aware that any statement included on their SOP will need supporting documents to substantiate the information provided.