

How to Write a Statement of Purpose

For students who are applying to extend their current visa

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).
- **Students who are extending visa for academic progression reasons – *this is extremely important and must be addressed properly:***
 - as a result of failing to pass subjects in their current degree - a full explanation of why they have not managed to pass must be provided. Students should provide evidence of any support they have obtained to assist them with their academic progression (eg. study skills, maths and stats help, or other study assistance provided by the University)
 - where students have not undertaken full-time study as a result of a medically supported problem should ensure that they provide full details explaining the situation and include all supporting documents.
- **Students who are transferring from another education provider or commencing a new degree program:**
 - An explanation of why the student has selected to study at the University of Canberra
 - The student will need to list other Australian providers that they have also applied to and what was the outcome of that application
 - If no application to other Australian providers explain why not
 - Student should detail any previous course/s and employment related to the intended study at UC and explains how the intended course is related to previous qualification and /or employment.

- **The relevance of the course/s to the student's future career and/or educational plans**
 - Provide information on the sort of employment they will be seeking on completion of their studies at UC and in what country
 - Include information on all the research undertaken in respect of their future career after completing the course/s, including:
 - If the student will return to current employer, what is the likely salary increase on completion of intended course. Provide evidence of this increase, eg. current job advertisements etc.
 - names of companies in their home country whom they have approached
 - details of any other countries (including Australia if applicable) where they would consider applying for positions following graduation
 - details of the type of position they would be eligible for upon graduation. Include evidence of email communication, research on company's website or employment websites
 - Information on the salaries for each company researched. Include details for similar roles and include copies of website information, email communication etc.
- **Details of living arrangements in Australia**
 - Student should provide details of where they have lived while in Australia and should include details of any partner/spouse, children, siblings, relatives or friends who are in Australia, especially if they are living with anyone listed above
- **Evidence of any employment undertaken while in Australia, including**
 - Student should mention name of the employer, duration of employment, position held, and salary drawn. Also attach work certificate issued by the employer with employer's contact details
 - Student can also attach pay slips together with copies of bank statements showing salary credits from the employer (students should be aware of the work restrictions attached to their current visa).

NOTE: *Students who are undertaking study at UC for the purpose of establishing a business on return will need to submit business plans and other evidentiary requirements to support this claim.*