

HOW TO WRITE A PERSONAL STATEMENT FOR THE UTS JUMBUNNA LEADERS ACCESS PROGRAM

Writing a personal statement for the Jumbunna Leaders Access Program (JLAP) at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) is a crucial step in your application process. This document should effectively communicate your unique qualities, leadership potential and dedication to your studies and community.

Here's a guide to help you craft a compelling personal statement.

1. Understand the program requirements

The JLAP specifically supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students demonstrating leadership potential and community involvement. Understanding the program's focus helps tailor your statement to emphasise these areas.

2. Start with a strong introduction

Begin your personal statement with a clear and engaging introduction that provides a snapshot of who you are. This could include your cultural background, your community and what drives you as an individual.

3. Highlight your leadership qualities

- **Describe experiences:** Share specific instances where you have demonstrated leadership, whether in school, your community or in extracurricular activities.
- **Impact and results:** Focus on the impact of your leadership. How have your actions contributed to the betterment of your community or school?

4. Discuss your academic interests and achievements

- **Relevance to your chosen field:** Connect your academic interests with the course you wish to pursue at UTS. Explain why you are passionate about this field.
- **Achievements:** Mention any academic honours, awards, or recognitions you have received that are relevant to your application.

5. Explain your community involvement

- **Active participation:** Detail your involvement in community initiatives, events, or projects. Describe your roles and any recognitions you might have received for your contributions.
- **Cultural preservation:** If applicable, discuss how you have contributed to the preservation and promotion of Indigenous culture.

6. Reflect on challenges overcome

Discuss any challenges or obstacles you have faced in your educational journey and how you overcame them using your strengths and resources. This can highlight your resilience and determination.

7. Discuss your future goals

- **Career aspirations:** Explain how the degree from UTS will help you achieve your long-term career goals.
- **Contribution to community:** Describe how you plan to use your education to give back to your community or contribute to broader societal change.

8. Conclude strongly

End your personal statement on a positive note, reaffirming your commitment to your educational and career goals and your desire to contribute to your community.

9. Proofread and edit

Ensure your personal statement is clear, well-organised, and free of grammatical errors. Consider having a teacher, mentor, or community leader review it before submission.

10. Formatting and length requirements

- **Length:** The personal statement should not exceed 2 A4 pages.
- **Font and size:** Use a standard, readable font such as Times New Roman or Arial at 11pt size.
- **Spacing:** The document should be single-spaced.

Additional tips

- **Be authentic:** Authenticity is crucial. Let your unique voice and personality shine through.
- **Be specific:** General statements are less impactful. Use specific examples that highlight your attributes and suitability for the program.

Need further application guidance?

Contact us at jumbunna.outreach@uts.edu.au or on 1800 064 312.