

Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences Personal Statement Instructions

Why does IAS require a personal statement?

Your personal statement is an important part of your application for admission into IAS. It helps us understand your academic preparation and goals and allows you to point out relevant aspects of your life that may not be evident from your academic record.

Topics

1. **Briefly discuss your goals.** What are your educational and career goals? How do you expect your coursework in IAS will help you attain these goals? If you are unsure of your specific career goals, let us know what areas you would like to explore and how you think an IAS degree will help you. If you have college and/or community service, employment, or other experiences that complement your academic or career goals, include it here.
2. **Briefly describe your college career to date.** Do you feel your grades accurately reflect your ability? If you've had to interrupt your college career or attend part-time in order to meet other responsibilities or obligations, describe them.
3. **Discuss aspects of your life that may not be evident through a review of your academic record (if applicable).** Have you had cultural experiences that would enrich the diversity of IAS and the UWT community? Have you had social or economic disadvantages that you have had to overcome?

Format

- Type your statement.
- Use no more than two sheets of 8.5" x 11" white paper.
- Double-space your statement.
- Use only one side of the paper.
- Print your name and the words "Personal Statement" at the top of each page.
- On the first page, list the quarter and the year that you are seeking admission.
- Use at least a 10-point font and black ink.

Tips

- **Be specific.** "Instead of writing "I've always wanted to work with people," write "I want to work as a marriage and family counselor."
- **Give details and examples.**
- **Be sure your paper reflects educational and career goals.** Instead of writing "My whole family graduated from the UW, so naturally I want to be a part of the tradition," write "A degree in Politics and Values with a non-profit certificate will give me the background I need to pursue my career goal of becoming a fundraiser in a non-profit group focused on alleviating poverty."
- **Let us know what makes you unique.**

Please submit your personal essay in an email attachment (either in Microsoft Word, or as an .rtf file) to: iasgoals@u.washington.edu or mail it to: Karin Dalesky Admissions Specialist, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, University of Washington Tacoma, 1900 Commerce Street, Suite WCG 424 Campus Box 358436, Tacoma, WA 98402

Questions? Email Karin Dalesky at karin@u.washington.edu or call 253-692-4450