



5 Things Every Education & Teaching Personal Statement Needs

A short, practical guide, updated for the UCAS 2026 format

UCAS changed the personal statement format for 2026 entry. Instead of one long essay, you now answer three structured questions. The good news: what actually makes a statement stand out hasn't changed at all. Here are five things worth getting right, whatever format you're working in.

1. Evidence, not claims

Anyone can write “I am passionate about teaching.” What actually convinces an admissions tutor is proof: a specific moment, a specific pupil, a specific thing you did and what you learned from it. If a sentence could be true of literally any applicant, it isn't doing any work. Go back through your draft and test every claim: is there a real example sitting right next to it, or is it just an assertion?

2. Find your one true moment

Somewhere in your experience is a genuine, personal moment that actually explains why you're applying, not a generic “I've always loved learning” but something specific: a pupil who struggled until something clicked, a piece of your own education that shaped how you think about teaching, a moment you realised theory and practice don't always line up neatly. That single, real moment is usually worth more than a page of general enthusiasm.

3. Speak the course's own language

Look closely at the actual entry requirements and module descriptions for the course you're applying to. If it says “critical evaluation of research,” don't just say you're a critical thinker. Show an actual instance of you critically evaluating something. Courses tell you exactly what they're testing for, if you read closely enough.

4. Cut the repetition

It's easy to say the same thing three different ways without noticing: the same skill, the same claim, restated. Every repeated sentence is space that could hold a real example instead. Read your draft looking specifically for repeated ideas, not just repeated words.

5. Be honest about theory and practice

If you've spent time in a classroom, you already know theory doesn't solve the problem in the moment. A child having a difficult moment isn't waiting for you to recall developmental psychology. The credible, mature version of this insight isn't "I applied theory X and it worked." It's noticing, afterward, why something did or didn't work, and how that changes what you do next time. That reflective honesty reads as far more convincing than pretending theory saves the day.

Want a second pair of eyes on your draft?

Admissions Coaching at Erurete is built around exactly this: a diagnostic read that finds what's already strong in your draft and helps you build a genuine bridge between theory and practice, not just a proofread.

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