

TOP TIPS

for applying to higher education as an Access student

from past Access students

- Look at several institutions and evaluate where would match your lifestyle best (i.e. if you need to work, are a parent etc).
- Choose the right course by researching modules, considering personal/academic interests. A course with the same title will be really different at different universities.
- Work out your living situation and start applying for finance or accommodation early.

- Attend as many open days as possible and ask students and staff about the university, the course and the careers/pastoral support you can expect at the institution.
- If the admissions page doesn't list your Access diploma as an accepted entry requirement don't be afraid to call admissions and ask – it's always best to double check.

- Start your personal statement early, keep it short and concise and leave time for redrafts.
- Ask friends and family for feedback on drafts.
- Draw on life skills and life experiences in your personal statement, especially if you're a mature student. This is what sets you apart, in a good way, from lots of other applicants.

personal statement tips

- Bit of both and it's different for everyone.
- Location, cost and additional support on offer all factor in.
- Course has to be right for you, especially if you have specific study interests, as that's what you'll be focusing on for at least three years.
- Have to think about why you want to go onto HE - is it to learn more, the experience, or something else?

right university or right course - which is more important?