



Statement of Purpose

Congratulations on your decision to apply to Fitzwilliam College. You have applied to one of the most prestigious universities in the world. Cambridge is our most competitive program, and we want our students to do everything they can to strengthen their applications. As part of your application to Fitzwilliam, you are required to write a statement of purpose.

The college at Fitzwilliam admits applicants who are driven, motivated and prepared for an academically rigorous semester. Writing a strong statement of purpose will strengthen your application and help differentiate you from other applicants.

Think of your statement of purpose as a college admissions essay. It should be 500-1000 words, and should outline the reasons why you want to study at Fitzwilliam College and the subjects you've chosen. A statement can be especially useful for providing additional information which is not immediately apparent from your transcript and which is relevant to your course and departmental selection. You should discuss your reasons for applying, preparation you've done to be academically suited to Cambridge, and specific study and research interests that you intend to pursue while at Cambridge. Mention your awareness of the Tripos system and discuss why it's important to you. How will studying at Cambridge broaden your academic horizons?

Your statement should also describe how and why a study abroad year/semester at Cambridge will assist you in achieving your academic and professional goals. If your main college experience has been with large seminars and lectures, and you are looking forward to the intense, personal mentoring that you will receive as part of the Tripos system, mention this.

Specifically, Cambridge is looking for you to address the following, but do not limit yourself to just these topics.

- Why you wish to study at Cambridge
- Which courses of study, among those available in Cambridge, particularly attract you? Give reasons.
- Give information about the level and content of courses you have taken which are relevant to your intended program of study.
- Outline your plans for the remainder of your university course and for your career

Avoid dwelling on wanting to go to Cambridge because it is a world-renowned school. Cambridge is very aware of its reputation and expects that you are too. Tell them something they don't know.

You must complete and submit your statement of purpose along with the other forms included in this document. Your application is not considered complete until you have sent in a statement of purpose.

Supplemental Application Questions

Please type your answers to these questions. Handwritten answers will not be accepted.

- Final examination results from school (AP, Abitur etc): please give marks in individual subjects. Give SAT scores as well if applicable.
- Dates of attendance at school and university (since age 13): Please give the name of the institution and the years attended.
- Expected date of graduation from university.
- If you are applying for a scientific subject, list in detail the courses studied in your first two years at university; your application cannot be considered without this information.