



Congratulations on your decision to apply to Royal Holloway, University of London. You have applied to one of the most prestigious universities in the U.K. Royal Holloway is a highly competitive program, and we want our students to do everything they can to strengthen their applications. As part of your application to Royal Holloway, you are required to write an academic statement.

A well-written personal statement can make the difference between a regular application and an incredible one. The departments at Royal Holloway admit applicants who are driven, motivated and prepared for an academically rigorous semester. Writing a strong academic statement will strengthen your application and help differentiate you from other applicants.

Think of your statement of purpose as a college admissions essay. Your academic statement should be about 500 words long, and outline the reasons why you want to study at Royal Holloway and the department(s) 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 department and course selection. You should discuss your reasons for applying, preparation you've done to be academically suited to Royal Holloway, and specific study and research interests that you intend to pursue while at Royal Holloway. Mention a course you'd like to take in the department(s) you are applying to, and discuss why it's important to you: Is it not available at your home university? Is it in an unusual or interesting subject area that would be inaccessible outside of the U.K.? Why will studying at Royal Holloway broaden your academic horizons? A word of caution for those of you applying to the Drama department at Royal Holloway: **The courses in Drama are all theory based courses—they do not offer performance based courses—so do not mention performance or performing in your statement.** If you do, the Drama department will not offer you a place! This is just an example of how important the academic statement is to your application.

Your statement should also describe how and why a study abroad year/semester at Royal Holloway will assist you in achieving your academic and professional goals. For example, if you are applying to the English department because you want to go to graduate school and focus on English literature or a particular time period in literature, mention this. If taking a specific music course offered at Royal Holloway will round out your academic background for your application to graduate school, mention this.

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