

Advice for writing your University Extension Studies Application

From experience over the past 6 years it is evident that the students that are successful in the UES program have a range of important attributes that ensure they can survive and thrive in the university system. In the past, the ASMS has based selection into UES on academic achievement and a range of other quantitative data from Year 10 and 11. Whilst in most cases this has proved valid as a selection tool the attributes of a learner need to be considered as equally important in the selection process.

The application supporting statement is an opportunity for you to tell us what makes you a good learner and what would make you successful in university topics. The following provides a range of scaffolds that you may choose to use in writing your supporting statement.

Suggested Application structure

1st paragraph (100 words) – A brief introduction to your learning interests and your future pathways and goals. You may consider talking specifically about a topic area.

2nd paragraph (250 words) – Look at the ASMS Graduate capabilities. Which do you think are necessary for you to demonstrate in university studies? Discuss some specific examples of when and how you have met some of the capabilities at a high level. The capabilities of Literacy, Numeracy, Critical and Creative thinking, and Personal and Social Capability may be ones that are relevant. Don't try and address them all. It is better you chose 1-2 and expand in detail with appropriate examples.

3rd paragraph (250 words) – Provide specific examples of how you can manage your learning as a self-directed learner. Success at university largely requires self-direction and taking responsibility as a learner. No one at university will follow up if something is missed or not handed up. You may also like to discuss your time management skills, how you work under pressure, capacity to meet all deadlines, how you actively communicate with teachers if you need assistance, what effective strategies you use in managing your learning, etc.

4th paragraph (250 words) – Content knowledge. Some of the 1st year university topics assume Year 12 knowledge in relevant topic areas. Discuss in this paragraph how you have or will develop the content knowledge necessary so there are not gaps in your understanding. You may want to talk about additional learning such as MOOCS, competitions, community learning, work experience etc., which is relevant to you gaining advanced content knowledge in your topic area. If you haven't yet done any additional learning you may want to discuss how you might achieve this over the summer holidays.

5th paragraph (150 words) – A concluding statement about why UES would help you achieve your future pathway and why you are interested and dedicated to wanting to do UES. You may also like to add any additional information that provides evidence of your readiness for 1st year university.

Some key sentence starters or words you should be using throughout your supporting statement

- I have demonstrated this by....
- An example of when this has worked well is
- This didn't work well but then I was able to
- A specific example of this is when

Other key advice

- Write in 1st person
- Focus on reflecting on your learning rather than providing a list/description of what you have done
- Focus on strategies, evidence and specific examples to support what you are saying