

BÜ Kariyer Merkezi

Statements of Purpose



www.kariyermerkezi.boun.edu.tr

grad.app@boun.edu.tr

Writing your Statements of Purpose (SOP)

The statement of purpose is perhaps the most important, and most challenging, element of your application packet. This letter needs to reflect who you are and why you would be an asset to the program you are applying to.

Your statement of purpose is the only opportunity you will have to let the admission committee directly get to know you. They will have some sense of who you are based on your faculty recommendations and transcript but this is the chance for you to personally make a good, strong impression.

Before you begin

Carefully research the programs you are applying to. Check out their websites and identify what appeals to you about the curriculum or research opportunities.

Drafting Your SOP

Think about who you are and why you would be an asset to the program you are applying to. It needs to make you stand out from the hundreds of other applicants.

Create one essay for each program. You must blend your own interests with the opportunities available at each particular program--so, no two statements should be exactly alike.

Attempt to create one unifying theme in your narrative.

Drafting Your SOP

Some application SOPs ask you to answer broad prompts in your statement. For example: describe your goals to pursue graduate study in no more than 500 words.

Others may ask you to answer a series of very specific questions such as your reasons for applying to their program in particular, how your background fits into your professional goals, how your past achievements would aid you during your time in graduate school, and what you have learned from your prior experience.

The SOP answers four questions for the committee.

First: what kind of work are you interested in doing in graduate school?

Second: why is the program you are applying to a good fit for you?

Be specific about what makes the program that you are applying to your ideal choice. Avoid general statements. Focus more on the specific things that you think make it a good match—for *you* and *your research goals*.

You may also talk about your goals after grad school. Where do you see yourself? You don't have to be one hundred percent certain about your future plans.

Third: What matters to you—and why?

It is important that you not just rephrase whatever is on your CV. The statement of purpose should give the committee a sense of who you are and how you have personally interpreted events in your life.

Fourth: How are you unique from the other candidates?

Aim to stand out because graduate program committees receive dozens—sometimes hundreds—of applications each year.

Summary:

The statement of purpose is perhaps the most important, and most challenging, element of your application packet. This letter needs to reflect who you are and why you would be an asset to the program you are applying to. It needs to make you stand out from the other applicants and yet answer the specific prompts for a the application's SOP.

Work excerpted:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/graduate_school_applications

Your grad.app reader will keep your deadline in mind when reading, but be aware that there is tremendous demand during the period leading up to the application deadlines.

Further information:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/642/01/>

<http://www.uni.edu/~gotera/gradapp/stmtpurpose.htm>

<http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/apply/statement-purpose/>

<https://grad.ucla.edu/asis/agep/advsoystem.pdf>

<http://web.mit.edu/msrp/myMSRP/docs/Statement%20of%20purpose%20guidelines.pdf>

<https://uni.edu/~gotera/gradapp/stmtpurpose.htm>

Each submission to grad.app@boun.edu.tr should contain:

Your name

Your department

Your first deadline

Your word limit



& Should be in WORD format!

Good luck!

For further SOP writing guidelines:

www.kariyermerkezi.boun.edu.tr

grad.app@boun.edu.tr

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+ 90 212 359 46 46/43/42



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kariyermerkezi@boun.edu.tr



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