

## IRC PG Application: Personal Statement

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Personal statement is your opportunity to say who you are as a person, how strong you are as applicant, how likely you are to achieve your goals, and support this by facts about your past achievement and by explaining your strong motivation and commitment.

**ALL RESEARCH PROPOSALS (or most of them...) WILL BE VERY STRONG. Your personal statement will be a very important part of your application. Use it to make your application to stand out.**

Again follow what the IRC asks you in the online system. You will be including your Personal statement under a tab labeled “Personal, Ethical and Sex/Gender Statements”.

If you have a gap in your CV (illness yours or of a family member, raising children...), or you have had a career change, or anything else that might raise questions, explain it briefly in your personal statement. Present it in a positive way. It might have been a very challenging period in your life; you were able to overcome difficulties related to whatever happened, you have learned skills that might be transferred to your future professional life, you have proven that you are determined and have “can-do” attitude, etc. Have you changed country to do your UG or Masters? Have you been working and are now returning to education? If you are not employed by the proposed employment partner, why is that organization a good choice for you and your future career? Use everything you can to show your strengths and demonstrate that you are motivated.