London South Bank University

EST 1892

MA Social Work 2016/2017

Expectations of personal statements

Spelling, grammar, writing

- Spelling should be accurate
- The statement should be grammatically correct
- The statement should be fluently written and coherent
- The statement should be logically structured, with clear paragraphs used correctly
- The statement should not be descriptive but rather should analyse motivation, academic development and previous experience

Content

The statement should address the following areas

- Motivation for social work
- Relevance of previous experience to social work
- Relevance of previous study with a focus on how study at an undergraduate level has prepared the candidate for post-graduate work

Characteristics of a good statement

A good statement should highlight some or all of the following

- A capacity to study at post-graduate level and enthusiasm for the subject
- An awareness of the demands of a vocational course
- The capacity to manage working in a stressful environment
- Both professional and personal motivation for social work as a career

- The relevance of previous study to the MA Social Work looking at course content and/or skills and academic achievement at undergraduate level
- The relevance of previous experience making clear links to social work particularly where work experience is not directly in social care
- Analytical skills
- Reflection on the candidates strengths and areas they hope they will develop on the MA
- Specific successes and achievements in academic work, the work place and professional life, and in life more broadly.