

How to write a Statement of Interest for MA Applications

A statement of interest is a central part of any graduate program application. It is the way that you introduce yourself and your research plans to the Admissions Committee. Given that this is often the first part of the application that the committee members read, it is important to write a strong statement of interest. But, what makes a statement strong?

A good statement of interest introduces you, your interest in political science and your primary area of research to the committee. It should be in the form of a short essay, ideally not more than one or one-and-a-half pages.

Specifically, address:

- **Why** you are interested in political science, or in pursuing an MA in political science? In other words, what motivates you to do graduate work?
- **What** would you like to study during your MA? Our students all do a major research work (MRP, DRE or thesis). What topic are you interested in exploring? How did you become aware of it? Why does it matter? **How** do you plan to carry out the research? If possible, tell the committee what theories or theorists will help you to shape your research and what other ideas have influenced your thinking, especially scholarly works. Provide scholarly references for the works you mention in the statement. You may also wish to discuss how you wish to use your research once you complete your MA. It is also helpful for the committee to know what courses you have taken in the past or work/research that you have done that have prepared you for this research. Why do you think that York's department of politics is the right place for you to pursue these interests? Are there specific courses that you would like to take or Professors that you want to work with? **Who** are they?

While it is helpful to include some personal background, especially as a way of indicating your motivation and interest in an MA, be careful not to make the statement too personal. The bulk of the information should be about your academic and related career interests, what you want to research and why, and how you think you will be able to do this at York.

It is always a good idea to have a friend or family member read through your statement for grammar and to make sure that it is as concise and coherent as possible. A well-written statement is more likely to be viewed in a positive light than one full of grammatical and spelling errors.

You can find more information on the FGS website:

<https://gradstudies.yorku.ca/prospective-students/applying/#squelch-taas-tab-content-0-3>