



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM

Texas Legislative Fellowship Program

Personal Statement Writing Guide

Purpose of a Personal Statement

Your personal statement helps the selection committee understand your motivations, experiences, and how the Texas Legislative Fellowship Program supports your academic and professional goals.

What to Include

Your statement should address these key questions:

- What experiences, training, or skills have prepared you for this fellowship?
- How have you demonstrated commitment to public service or policy work?
- How will this program advance your academic and career aspirations?
- Why do you want to live, learn, and intern in Austin, TX?
- What qualities, perspectives, or experiences will you bring to the cohort?
- How will you meet the demands of a full-time legislative internship?

Writing Tips for a Strong Personal Statement

- Be authentic: Share your own voice and avoid generic statements.
- Show do not tell: Use specific examples to illustrate your commitment and skills.
- Connect the dots: Explain how your background, goals, and the fellowship fit together.
- Stay focused: Answer the prompt directly and keep within the word limit.
- Proofread: Ensure clarity, grammar, and flow. Consider reading aloud or asking someone for feedback.
- Open strong: begin your personal statement with an anecdote, significant moment, or clear statement of purposes that reflects your commitment to public service or policy. It should also set the tone for the rest of the statement.

Things to Avoid in a Personal Statement

- Overly broad or vague statements don't contribute to an effective personal statement.
- A personal statement is not your resume in narrative form.
- Avoid using jargon or overly formal language.
- Personal statements should reflect your individuality while maintaining a professional tone appropriate for a fellowship application.