

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS QUICK GUIDE 2018:

HOW TO WRITE A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE FOR KOÇ UNIVERSITY GRADUATE PROGRAMS

A Statement of Purpose is a document that will help show your potential for scholarly research and teaching in your field of interest. Make sure you write a concise, well thought out and tailored document.

The statement should be one or two pages. Include your full name and the proposed field of study or program at the top of each page. Please use a standard font and font size for ease of reading.

Why concise?

To make a potential supervisor want to bring you in as a student and member of the research community at Koç University.

However, they usually have to read over 100 applications or more so standing out is more about saying clearly what makes you a great candidate.

For example:

- If you are applying to a program and your undergraduate degree is not directly related to this area: demonstrate how specific knowledge or skills you gained in that degree or through work experience will be transferable to your desired Master or PhD program.
- If you don't have a very high GPA or GRE scores: show with specific examples how you have contributed to research and analytical problem solving in other facets of your life (professional or academic)
- If you are coming from a good but not well known university outside your country: help the faculty member understand how your undergraduate institution is placed within your country (rankings, research strengths, academic quality) and how it helped prepared you for graduate study.

Why well-thought out?

Regardless of whether you are applying to a Master or a PhD program it should clearly describe in plain English:

- Why do you want to apply to Koç University?
- Why do you apply to this particular program?
- What are your career objectives?

For applicants to PhD programs it is also important to talk about what are your research interests, who do you want to work with and why?

This will be easier if you have identified a potential supervisor you want to study with and let them know what are you interested in. Some supervisors may be able to integrate your area of interest with a project or research area they currently have.

Why tailored?

Different departments in each Graduate School may request different things as far as a Statement of Purpose is concerned. It is important that you check the department website to find out any particular requirements (eg. word limit, structure).

If you have a specific project proposal in mind make sure you cover the following aspects:

- Provide an overview of your research question, explaining why it is of academic and or practical importance.
- Outline the main objectives of your research, providing details of two or three key aspects.
- Indicate the importance of previous related research and how your own research question might take a useful contribution to the area.
- Briefly state the main research techniques (interviews, case studies, modelling etc.) you might use.
- Indicate your suggested data collection procedures, indicating sources and any possible difficulties.
- Techniques you intend to use.
- A proposed timetable of activities or how you plan to complete it in time.
- List the references in your proposal or provide a short bibliography

Useful links and examples:

- How to Write a Statement of Purpose for Grad School (The Princeton Review)
<https://www.princetonreview.com/grad-school-advice/statement-of-purpose>
- Writing the Statement of Purpose (Berkeley Graduate Studies)
<http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/apply/statement-purpose/>
- Statement of Purpose Guide (Cornell University Graduate School)
<https://gradschool.cornell.edu/sites/gradschool.cornell.edu/files/Writing%20the%20Statement%20of%20Purpose.pdf>