




Preparing Your Personal Teaching Statement

STEP 1: Know the Purpose: All students planning to study Early Childhood Education with Ikon Institute must prepare and submit a Personal Teaching Statement as part of the application process. This statement is your opportunity to demonstrate your suitability to educate young children and that you have the right mix of qualities to enable you to become an effective early childhood teacher in the future.

STEP 2: Understand and Identify Skills: The task should not be a daunting one – in fact, it’s a great opportunity for you to think deeply about why you want to become an early childhood teacher and discover a little bit about yourself along the way. As part of this process, it is important to understand the different types of skills teachers demonstrate in their practice. The following are the types of skills teachers demonstrate, you need to explore these and start thinking about what skills you have in each different area and will bring to your teaching:

		
<p>Transferable Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team player • Communication • Leadership • Writing skills • Analytical skills • Computer skills • Time management • Customer service • Negotiation skills • Presentation skills • Planning and organisation • Interpersonal skills 	<p>Knowledge-Based Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluency in English • Digital technology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical skills to use digital devices and typing skills • Computer programmes and Software proficiency (Word, PowerPoint) • Data analysis • Database and search engine searching • Social media 	<p>Personal Attributes/Attitudes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caring • Creative • Dedicated • Enthusiastic • Flexible • Logical • Motivated • Optimistic • Open minded • Resilient • Responsible • Trustworthy

STEP 3: Understand the Requirements: Your Personal Teaching Statement allows us to assess your suitability for teaching against non-academic capabilities common in successful teachers. Your Personal Teaching Statement is made up of three smaller 200-word statements (these are provided below) which you will complete as part of filling out your application form.

To help you prepare your Personal Teaching Statement we suggest reflecting on the following:

Statement 1: Motivation to be a teacher

Outline the reasons for wanting to become an early childhood teacher and why early childhood teaching is a good career choice for you.

Who or what has inspired you to become a teacher?

Did you have a teacher who really encouraged you? What did they do and how did they make you feel? Or did you have a 'wow' moment?

Why is teaching a good career choice for you?

Is it because you want to inspire and educate the next generation? Or because your work may benefit your community? Or because you enjoy sharing your passion? Do you think teaching might be a challenging and rewarding career? Why?

Why are you interested in teaching young children?

Do you want to make a difference in the lives of young people? Do you want to give back to your community? Do you want to improve the quality of education?

What subjects are you interested in teaching and why?

Do you like language and literacy; mathematics and numeracy; science; engineering; visual and media arts; music, dance, and drama; humanities and social sciences; or digital and design technologies?

What does being a good teacher mean to you?

Being someone passionate and knowledgeable? Inspiring others? Being a role model? Always aspiring to excellence?

Statement 2: Personal and academic qualities of a teacher

Outline the personal and academic qualities you possess that will enable you to become an effective early childhood teacher.

What skills and abilities do you have that will make you a good teacher?

Are you caring towards others? Are you enthusiastic? Are you patient? Do you have a good sense of humour? Are you creative? Are you flexible? Can you empathise with people easily? Can you problem-solve? Are you innovative? Do you like playing and having fun with children?

What communication skills do you have that will make you a good teacher?

Are you able to convey ideas and information to others using written and spoken language? Are you an active listener? Are you able to communicate effectively in different contexts?

Are you committed to academic learning?

Are you committed to investing in your education? Do you like reading? Do you like mentoring and working with others? Are you able to manage time to meet deadlines?

What do you do to overcome obstacles, challenges, or problems?

Think about a time when you needed to solve a problem. How did you identify the problem? Did you try to break the problem down in smaller parts? Did you focus on one step at the time? Did you ask someone for help or advice? Was someone else involved? Did you listen to their concerns?

What tasks or events have you planned and/or organised?

Have you helped organise an event in your school or community? Were you responsible for making up flyers, sending invitations out or contacting local business to support an event?

Statement 3: Learning and leadership attributes of a teacher

Describe one or two leadership, community and/or learning and development activities that you have engaged in.

What learning activities are you or have you been engaged in?

Have you ever helped another fellow student to understand a concept in class? Have you helped a sibling with their homework? Have you taught someone how to play a game?

What leadership activities have you undertaken?

Have you ever been a team captain or coach in your local sports club? Did you take lead in a group project at school?

What activities of personal interest are you involved in?

Do you like sport? Music? Theatre? Scouts? Gaming? Do you enjoy playing something or setting things up so others can play/enjoy? In what ways are your personal interest might be connected to teaching?

How long have I participated? How am I involved?

Do you attend or help organise events that relate to your personal interest? Or is this something you practice every day or weekly? How often and for how long?

How have I shown that I can work with others?

Is there a situation where you helped someone with a problem? Can you think of a time when you listened to someone's ideas? Or when you compromised to achieve a goal?

STEP 4: Write your Statement: Your Personal Teaching Statement is to be organised, structured and written in paragraphs. Paragraphs are units of sentences in the development of an idea or argument. Each of the three required statements should be a minimum of one paragraph with at least four sentences.

1. Introduction (linked to the statement you are addressing)
2. Evidence and examples (linked to the statement questions above)
3. Evidence and examples (linked to the statement questions above)
4. Relevance to the skills, abilities, and reasons for wanting to be a teacher

Once you have written your responses make sure you proofread your writing for language use, spelling, punctuation, grammar, and typos.

The key to a successful Personal Teaching Statement is that it is your own work, filled with personal examples that demonstrate how your skills, experiences and beliefs will make you an amazing teacher to nurture our youngest global citizens!

Now it is time to brainstorm, draft, edit, proofread, and submit your teaching statement to turn your teaching dream into a reality.