

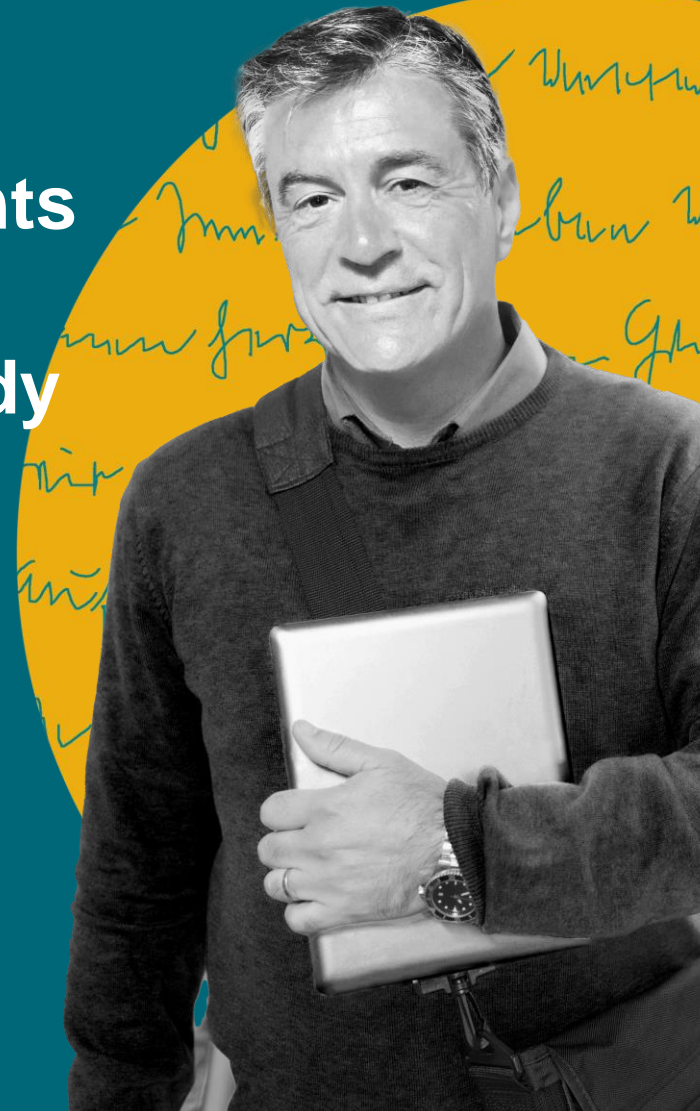


**Maynooth
University**
National University
of Ireland Maynooth

Careers
Service

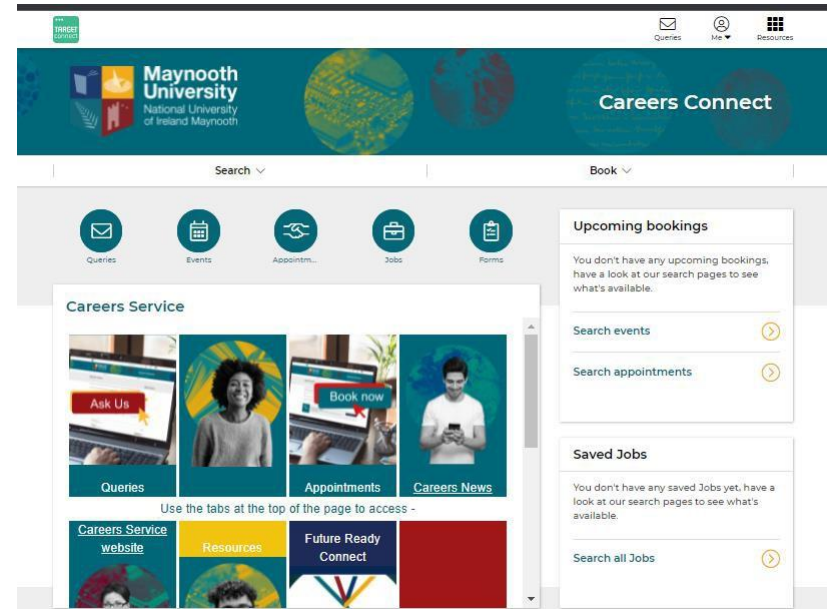
Careers
Connect

Personal Statements for Postgraduate Study



How the Careers Service works

- Open Online
- Monday – Friday
- Use Careers Connect to engage with us
- Website
www.maynoothuniversity.ie/careers - lots of useful career/job search information and resources



What is a personal statement?

- Part of the application process for postgraduate study
- An opportunity show you have commitment and qualifications to pursue the course of study

Why do course directors use Personal Statements?

- Help select applicants
- Generate questions for interview (where applicable)
- Clarify that you understand the nature of the course

Where to start?

- **Be clear on what is required**
- Some courses will give guidelines on writing a personal statement
- Word count, instructions, typed, specific information, evidence of experience?

Layout

- Have a beginning, middle and an end
- Plan structure of personal statement and divide it into paragraphs
- No blueprint for a perfect statement

Sections could include:

- Why you are applying to course/college
- Your academic qualifications and how they relate to the course
- Your personal qualities, skills, work experience and achievements that make you suitable for the course
- Conclusion

Back up statements with evidence

- If you enjoyed a particular module, clarify the aspects you enjoyed
- If you refer to particular experiences, say what you achieved and learned
- If you refer to interests and experiences outside college, outline the extent of your involvement

Answer these questions...

- Why that course?
- Why that college?
- Why you?
 - What will you bring to the course?

Why that course?

- Show your enthusiasm for the course
- Have you studied any modules, done any projects that are particularly relevant to this course?
- Where did your interest in this course come from?
 - Studying out of interest
 - Necessary step on your career path
 - Provide new opportunities not currently available to you (e.g. conversion courses)

Why that college?

- Research the college and school/dept – start with their website
- Show that you have researched the institution and the school/dept in which you wish to study
- Highlight why you would particularly value the opportunity to study there

Why you?

- What will you bring to the course?
- What academic skills/abilities do you have to offer?
- Relevance of your degree to this course?
- What are your strengths?
- What personal skills will you bring to the course?
 - Give examples e.g. Organisational skill, time-management, team-working, self-motivation
- If relevant point out any circumstances that have influenced your results to date – if you feel your results are not a reflection of you ability.

Sum up

- Final paragraph
 - just a few sentences to highlight your commitment to this course and your willingness to work hard to face challenges / meet goals etc

To help before you start writing...

Some things to consider...

- Brainstorm and research self-assessment
- www.maynoothuniversity.ie/careers/discover-your-career **Step 1**
 - Why did you choose this programme?
 - What are your core values and interests?
 - What got you to this point in your life? (events, people)
 - What are your past successes?

What do you want them to know about you?

- What is distinctive about me? List some key attributes
- What learning influences shaped me? People, books, etc?
- What special courses, modules, skills would make me more successful in this programme?
- What challenges have I overcome in my academic, work or personal life?
- What are my career goals?

Documenting your Skills/Experience: Your Course

- Important to highlight relevant skills from your **degree**
- See **Modules** you have completed to date:
<http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/study-maynooth/undergraduatestudies/courses>
- Module handouts/Course handbook – available from Department

Criminology

 AGCAS editors  February, 2020

Skills for your CV

Studying criminology develops your understanding of the social and personal aspects of crime, victimisation and responses to crime and deviance, as well as building specific skills such as:

- generating and evaluating evidence
- making reasoned arguments and ethical judgments
- critical thinking and problem-solving
- collecting, analysing and interpreting data
- report writing.

If you study other subjects alongside criminology, you should consider the complementary skills they provide you with, for example, an increased awareness of psychology or politics related to criminology topics.

Also consider your more general skills in areas such as research, written and oral communication, IT, time management and the ability to work productively both in a group and individually.

Further study

Most criminology graduates who go on to further study choose from a range of vocational areas including social work, teaching and [law conversion courses](#).

Some students choose to progress to Masters courses, including MAs in criminology or criminal justice. These courses enhance your subject knowledge, possibly with a view to going on to further academic research. Courses relevant to specific client groups also exist, such as a Masters in alcohol and drug studies.

For more information on further study and to find a course that interests you, see

On this page

- ▼ Job options
- ▼ Work experience
- ▼ Typical employers
- ▼ Skills for your CV

Criminology

AGCAS editors
February, 2020

- ▼ Job options
- ▼ Work experience
- ▼ Typical employers
- ▼ Skills for your CV
- ▼ Further study
- ▼ What do criminology graduates do?

Remember

- Get it proof read by someone else – we seldom see our own typos or grammatical/spelling errors
- Read it out loud
- Make it easy to read
- Be yourself – don't plagiarise

Careers Connect – Current Students

<http://mu.ie/careers-connect>

- **Send a Query** – Careers Advisers answer your questions e.g. Career plans, application/job search questions, CV reviews
- Search and Apply for **Jobs**
- Book **career guidance meetings** with Careers Advisers
- View Careers/Recruitment **Events**
- Set up Job/Events **email alerts**



**Careers
Connect**



Search ▾

Book ▾



Queries



Events



Appointm...



Jobs



Forms

Careers Service



[Queries](#)



[Appointments](#)



[Careers News](#)

Use the tabs at the top of the page to access -

[Careers Service website](#)

[Resources](#)

[Future Ready Connect](#)

Upcoming bookings

You don't have any upcoming bookings, have a look at our search pages to see what's available.

[Search events](#)



[Search appointments](#)



Saved Jobs

You don't have any saved Jobs yet, have a look at our search pages to see what's available.

[Search all Jobs](#)





Maynooth University
National University of Ireland Maynooth

Target Connect

Queries Me Resources

Maynooth University
National University of Ireland Maynooth

Careers Connect

Search Book

Queries Events Appointm... Jobs Forms

Careers Service

Ask Us Book now

Queries Appointments Careers News

Use the tabs at the top of the page to access -

Careers Service website Resources Future Ready Connect

Upcoming bookings

You don't have any upcoming bookings, have a look at our search pages to see what's available.

Search events Search appointments

Saved Jobs

You don't have any saved Jobs yet, have a look at our search pages to see what's available.

Search all Jobs

Use Queries to send your questions to our careers advisers

Careers Service

Book careers appointments

The screenshot shows the Maynooth University Careers Connect website. The header includes the university logo and 'Careers Connect' text. A yellow circle highlights the 'Appointments' link in the navigation menu. The main content area contains a message about careers meetings running through MS Teams, instructions on how to book an appointment, and a 'Next Step Careers Meeting' section with a 'View appointments' button.

Target Connect

Maynooth University
National University of Ireland Maynooth

Careers Connect

Search

Book

Appointments

Home \ Book \ Appointments

Careers meetings are running through MS Teams

Please select an appointment time below and click book.
If there are no appointments remaining and you require an urgent appointment, please send us a meeting request by clicking "Queries" above.

If you require a meeting to discuss Job Interview Preparation, please send us an Interview Preparation Meeting request by clicking "Queries" above.

Additional appointments are added frequently so please check back to view latest availability.

Next Step...

Next Step Careers Meeting

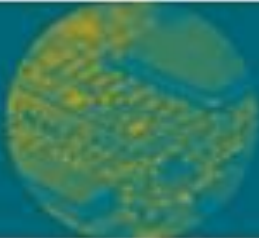
Take the next step in your career journey... Meet with a careers adviser to discuss your career... [Find out more](#)

[View appointments](#)

Careers Service



Maynooth University
National University
of Ireland Maynooth



Search



Queries



Events



Appointments



Jobs



Forms

Careers Service



Queries



Appointments



Careers News

Use the tabs at the top of the page to access -



Careers Service
website



Resources



Future Ready
Connect



Service



Resources

Resources provided by the Careers Service | Maynooth University to support you in your career exploration.

CV

CareerSet CV Review Platform CareerSet ⓘ

Other

Careers Interest Tests
Careers Interest & Aptitude tests

Careers Resources
Sample CVs, Careers Presentations, Careers Info ⓘ

ShortListMe Video Interview Platform ShortListMe ⓘ

RECOMMENDED JOBS



- Careers Service
- Careers Connect
- Discover Your Career
- Find a Job
- Interviews
- Postgraduate Study
- Useful Resources
- For Employers
- For Staff
- Graduate Career Stories
- About Us
- Archive
- Contact
- Events

View Edit Revisions Access control

Supports for Students, Graduates & Employers

The Careers Service is open online.

Our team are available to help with your career questions.

Students / Graduates Do you need help with career planning, subject choice, postgraduate study, job search, CVs, interviews or other careers questions?

Ask questions, book career guidance appointments, search for jobs, find careers information. Find out how to [Connect with Careers](#) and take the next step in your career journey.

Careers Interest Tests

Take the tests and explore what careers might interest you

Careers Videos

Using the Careers Service

Ask questions & Book Appointments on Careers Connect

Need career advice or don't know where to start?

Our Careers Advisers are available daily



Go to Careers Connect

Careers advisers are available daily - ask questions and book careers appointments on Careers Connect

Careers Service

Careers Connect

Discover Your Career

Find a Job

Interviews

Postgraduate Study

Useful Resources

For Employers

For Staff

Graduate Career Stories

About Us

Archive

Contact

Events

FAQs

News

People

View

Edit

Revisions

Access control

- [Clone content](#)

Careers Connect

Careers Connect is part of **MU FutureConnect** - your **Careers & Employability portal**, and is your one stop shop to engage with the Careers Service. On **Careers Connect** you can ask questions and/or book meetings with careers advisers and view our Jobs and Events Listings. You can also set email alerts for jobs and events.

Current MU Registered Students (Undergraduate and Postgraduate)

[Login with your MU login details](#)

Once you have logged in to the system you can update your profile and if you wish, sign up for email alerts from us on advertised jobs and up-coming careers events.



Send us your questions



Book Careers Appointments

Any Questions?

The Careers Service team are here to help you.

Careers Connect

- ✓ Careers Information / Questions
- ✓ Careers Appointments

www.maynoothuniversity.ie/careers

 @mu_careersservice

 MU Careers Service

