STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

[Full Name] | [Programme, e.g. PhD in Computer Engineering] | [University] | [Intake, e.g. Fall 2027]

Research-based SOP template. Delete every green "Guide" box before submitting. Typical length: 800–1,000 words (about 2 pages), unless the university says otherwise.

1. OPENING: THE RESEARCH PROBLEM THAT DRIVES YOU

Guide: *Start with a real problem, observation or question, not "I have always been passionate about…". 3–5 sentences. Show why it matters and how it led you to research.*

[Describe a specific problem you observed, for example in your community, country, a course or a project. Explain why it matters, who it affects, and the research question it raised for you. End with one sentence linking this problem to the field you want to study.]

2. ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

Guide: *Briefly cover your degree, relevant courses and your result. Don't list every course; pick those that prepared you for research in this area.*

[I obtained a Bachelor of [Degree] in [Course] from [University], [Country], graduating with a CGPA of [x.xx/5.0] / [class of degree]. Courses such as [Course 1], [Course 2] and [Course 3] gave me a strong foundation in [skills or theory]. My undergraduate thesis, "[Thesis Title]", supervised by [Supervisor], investigated [one sentence].]

3. RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (THE MOST IMPORTANT SECTION)

Guide: *Use 1–3 projects. For each one: the question, your methods and tools, YOUR specific role, the result (numbers if possible), and what you learned. Mention publications or conference presentations.*

Project 1: [As a [Research Assistant / Thesis Researcher] at [Institution], I worked on [project title or goal]. I [designed / collected / analysed / built] [what] using [methods, tools or equipment]. The project [result, e.g. improved accuracy by 15% / was published in Journal]. This experience taught me [research skill or insight].]

Project 2: [Describe a second project in the same way, ideally one that shows growth or a different skill (e.g. fieldwork, lab work, programming, data analysis, writing).]

[Publications or presentations: "[Title]", [Journal / Conference, Year]. Describe your contribution in one sentence.]

4. RESEARCH INTERESTS AND PROPOSED DIRECTION

Guide: *Be specific. Name the questions or problems you want to work on during the programme, and how they build on your experience. This shows you are ready for independent research.*

[During my [PhD / Master's], I aim to investigate [specific research question or topic]. In particular, I am interested in [sub-question 1] and [sub-question 2], using approaches such as [methods]. This builds on my previous work on [topic] and addresses the gap of [what is missing in current research].]

5. WHY THIS PROGRAMME, UNIVERSITY AND FACULTY

Guide: *Name 2–3 professors and refer to their actual work (a paper, a project or a lab). Mention specific resources: labs, centres, datasets, courses. Never write a paragraph that could be sent to any university.*

[The [Department] at [University] is an ideal environment for this research. I am particularly drawn to Professor [Name]'s work on [topic], especially "[Paper Title]", which [how it connects to your interests]. I am also interested in Professor [Name]'s research on [topic]. In addition, the [Lab / Centre / facility] and courses such as [Course] would help me develop [skills].]

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6. CAREER GOALS

Guide: *Say where you want to be after the degree (academia, industry research, government, starting something) and how this programme helps. If applying for a scholarship with a return requirement, mention your plans for your home country.*

[After completing my [degree], I plan to [career goal, e.g. pursue an academic career / lead research at …], focusing on [area]. In the long term, I hope to [impact, e.g. contribute to solving problem in your country or region].]

7. CLOSING

Guide: *2–3 sentences. Summarise your fit and readiness. No new information, and no begging.*

[With my background in [area], research experience in [skills], and clear research direction, I am confident I can contribute to and benefit from the [Programme] at [University]. I look forward to the opportunity to [one final sentence about your research goal].]

CHECKLIST BEFORE SUBMITTING

- Every paragraph answers: what did I do, how did I do it, and what did it lead to?
- The professors, labs and courses you name actually exist at THIS university. Double-check names.
- Within the word or page limit, with the programme and university names correct everywhere.
- No clichés ("since childhood", "passionate", "I want to make the world a better place").
- Proofread, and ask a mentor or a member of the App Fee Waiver community to review it.
- Your SOP must be your own work. Use this structure as a guide; do not copy someone else's SOP.

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