

Be ready **before** the call opens.

The scholarship and grant application kit. A guide, eight templates, four trackers and a funding calendar.

FundedPath-guide.pdf

12 chapters + directory

T1 to T8 .docx

8 Word templates

Tracker1 to Tracker4 .xlsx

4 Excel trackers

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Writing the Personal Statement

A personal statement is the one place where a reviewer hears from you instead of your documents. Most reviewers read hundreds. They are not looking for the best writer. They are looking for a person who is clear about what they want, has done something toward it, and will use the money well.

This chapter gives you a structure, a worked sample, and a checklist. Use the template (Template 1) alongside it.

What reviewers are really asking

Every scholarship essay, whatever the prompt, answers four questions:

1. **Who are you?** Not your whole life. The part that explains your choices.
2. **What have you already done?** Proof that you act, not just hope.
3. **Why this programme and why now?** Evidence you chose it on purpose.
4. **What will you do afterwards?** What the funding makes possible for others, not only for you.

If a paragraph answers none of these, cut it.

The five-paragraph structure

PARAGRAPH	JOB	LENGTH
1. Opening	One specific moment or fact that shows what drives you	4 to 6 lines
2. Evidence	What you have done so far: studies, projects, work, volunteering	6 to 8 lines
3. The fit	Why this programme, this course, this institution	5 to 7 lines
4. The plan	What you will do during and after, with a realistic first step	5 to 7 lines
5. Close	One sentence on why you are a good use of their money	2 to 3 lines

Most statements run 500 to 800 words. Always follow the word limit in the programme's own instructions.

Writing each paragraph

1. Opening: start with a fact, not a feeling

Weak: "I have always been passionate about helping my community."