

How to Write Strong Essays



GOALS

Clearly state your academic, professional, and personal goals. Be explicit.



RESEARCH

Show that you know exactly what the program offers. Be specific.



PROGRAM FIT

Show how the program's offerings will help meet your goals. Make connections.

ESSAYS REALLY MATTER! Your essays are the main way to show the OIE how well the programs you selected fit with your goals and needs. They are the primary way we determine whether you would be a good nominee for the programs you choose.

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS FULLY! Compare your answers to the [Essay Scoring Guide](#) to make sure you've answered each question completely, *especially* if you're applying to a competitive program. You lose points for incomplete answers.



ACADEMIC GOALS: Talk about *specifics* of academics on this program. What do you hope to learn academically? What style of teaching do they use? What specific classes will you take? Are there reasons this program is better than others at meeting your academic needs?



PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL GOALS: Talk about *both* types of goals. How do you hope to grow personally? What do you want to add to your resume? How will the program's support level, structure, location, and extracurricular opportunities help you meet these goals?



POTENTIAL CHALLENGES: Show that you've researched what to expect for your specific program and geographical region. Be thoughtful and honest. Going to a new culture and academic system always presents challenges. Think through resources and skills available to help you thrive.