SEAS AND EQUITY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

EXAMPLES OF PERSONAL IMPACT STATEMENTS

The Personal Impact Statement should describe the circumstances which have adversely affected your education. Include information about your:

- ability to study,
- access educational facilities and resources,
- attend school/tuition regularly and perform in assessment tasks.

Below are some examples of Personal Impact Statements.

Category 3: Difficult circumstances

Poor response:
My mother was diagnosed with cancer a couple of years ago and died last year. This was a very sad time for my family and very difficult for all of us as she was a single parent.

Why? The statement does not provide any information on how the mother’s circumstances effected the student’s education.

Good response:
My mother was diagnosed with cancer when I was in Year 10. I was the oldest of 4 children in a sole parent family and therefore had the responsibility of taking care of my siblings as well as working a part-time job 5 days a week. Due to these additional responsibilities I found it difficult to complete my school work on time. I was also unable to participate in study groups after school as I had to be there to care for my siblings and to assist my mother. I missed about three weeks of school over the past 2 ½ years as I attended hospital appointments with my mother. My Year 12 studies this year have been difficult as I have not been able to perform at my normal standard due to grief, lack of sleep and added responsibilities as my mother passed away in January this year.

Category 3: Difficult Circumstances (2nd example)

Poor response:
I am a refugee from Sudan and my family arrived in Australia 2 years ago, after living in a refugee camp for 3 years. I have worked very hard to learn English and complete my secondary schooling in Australia and I think it would be very good if I can study at university.

Why? The above statement does not describe the impact on the student’s education.

Good response:
I arrived from Sudan 2 years ago as a refugee. Sudan experienced war for many years and therefore I have not had any stable formal education since primary school. I tried to study high school subjects in the refugee camp but there weren’t many qualified teachers and there were no textbooks and classes were not held on a regular basis. Since arriving in Australia we have moved four times and this has also made it difficult for me to feel settled in an Australian school. These school changes have also affected my performance in assessment tasks, because the topics I was tested on were a bit different at each school.
Category 4: Disadvantaged financial background *

Your statement should convey: Impact of financial circumstances on your education and ability to do educational activities. You only need to complete an Impact Statement for this category if you or your family are NOT receiving Centrelink benefits.

Poor response:

I come from a large family and my father works in a factory. My mother has part-time work sometimes as a cleaner but living in Melbourne is very expensive and we have no money to spare.

Why? The above statement does not address how the student’s education has been effected by the family's financial difficulties.

Good response:

I come from a family of 7 and both my parents have low paid jobs. My family’s financial situation meant that I could not afford text books or other costs associated with secondary school. I also work 4 days a week after school to help with our family’s living expenses, but it does not leave me a lot of opportunity to study and complete homework on time, or attend the after-school homework club. My part-time work also makes me feel very tired at school and this makes it hard for me to concentrate on my study.

* For guidance on income levels under this category, check to see if your family’s income is at or below the cut off point for a Centrelink Low Income Health Care Card http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/enablers/centrelink/low-income-health-care-card/income-test

Category 5: Disability or medical condition

Your statement should convey: Impact of your medical condition(s) on your educational opportunities and activities.

Poor response:

I have Type 1 diabetes and this has seriously affected my health and also put me in hospital.

Why? The above statement does not address a specific medical condition or how severe the disruption is to day to day tasks.

Good response:

I have suffered with Type 1 diabetes since I was 14. My illness has caused me to miss a large amount of school over most of my secondary education because of specialist appointments and times when I needed to be hospitalised. This year alone I have missed approximately 30 days of school because of my diabetes. It was very difficult to catch up on the work I had missed and I found it impossible to study as I was tired and groggy from the medication I have been prescribed. A majority of assignments and projects I have completed over the years do not reflect my true academic potential because of the effects my illness has had on me.