

Guidelines for writing your personal statement:

The purpose of the statement is to present yourself to the graduate admissions committee of the Department of Hispanic Studies, it is, in a way, the first impression we will get from you, so you should spend some time thinking about it and articulating its content.

The statement should concisely (500 words) answer questions like what is your purpose for making a MA or PhD in Spanish and what do you expect to achieve with this degree? In which of our academic areas (linguistics or literature) would you like to concentrate?

It must also address your future projects and ideas regarding the kind of research you would like to conduct for your thesis and/or dissertation and which of our professors you think could help you achieve those goals. On the other hand, you should refrain from delving too deep into personal experiences or stating too subjective or too obvious ideas, for example avoid sentences like these: "Spanish is the most beautiful language in the world and it must be preserved" or "I remember that my grandmother used to speak Spanish to me when I was little". Remember that this is a presentation for an **academic** position, so the tone and content must remain professional and focused.