Dear Applicant,

As part of the admissions process, you are asked to write a 500-word personal statement. This is an opportunity for you to express yourself and tell us about your experiences and why you should be part of this programme. We want to hear YOUR 'voice' because teaching is a highly personal profession. It is not an essay about your curriculum vitae (CV) or a list of accomplishments.

For this personal statement we would like you to inform us about three things:

A. What experiences have influenced your decision to apply for this Initial Teacher Education Program (ITEP)? (approx. 150 words)
B. How will these experiences help you in your study in becoming a teacher? Please give examples of specific experiences in your chosen subject area and to the way in which you learn and study. (approx. 150 words)
C. How do you hope to develop and improve your knowledge and skills in becoming a teacher? Please consider what you expect from the ITEP and what you believe you can do for yourself to prepare for the programme. (approx. 200 words)

Tips for writing a personal statement:

- Think about what makes you special and why you think you should be selected for the program. Let it reflect your passion in education.
- Organize your thoughts and write your personal statement.
- Give yourself time to write several drafts until you are satisfied.
- Make sure you cover all that is asked above. Write well and correctly. Type and proofread your statement.
- Ask someone else - preferably a faculty member in your area - to review your ideas to make sure your ideas are clear to someone reading your statement.
Do’s:

- Carefully read and follow the rules for selection carefully.
- Be honest and confident in your statements; use a positive tone. Make it personal.
- Use personal examples to show what makes you different from other applicants. Make it organized and clear.
- Make sure your goals are clear.
- Be specific and clear throughout the essay. Use real life experiences.
- Keep it simple.
- Use good language.
- Revise and carefully proofread one last time.
- **Avoid plagiarism!* (Cutting and pasting and taking the ideas of others is considered cheating!)

Don’ts:

- Do not try to cover up and make excuses for or about your weaknesses.
- Do not use popular sayings or depend too much on sayings from famous people.
- Do not start every sentence with “I”.
- Do not use language you would use in a SMS or Whatsapp message.
- Do not fill your paper with empty words or unimportant information.

Yours sincerely,

Admissions Team

*You can avoid plagiarism by making sure that your personal statement is exactly that: your story, your vision, and your reasons for applying to this program. Write every word yourself, using your own ideas and language. Do not copy and paste ANY words from websites or other applications. Research plagiarism further before you begin writing; the program takes this issue very seriously. ("Most Common Mistake Applicants Make That Results in Rejected Applications," 2014)