

The Statement of Purpose

(Suggestions for students applying for scholarships within the CEU DRSB Program)

1. What is a “Statement of Purpose?”

A Statement of Purpose (SoP) is a written statement, which identifies and explains your motivations, objectives, and longer-term goals.

2. Why Statement of Purpose is required?

The SoP provides the board with valuable information about their applicants as regards what they intend to do while attending (or working for, or with) the school or program. It also lets them know what the applicant will do with their acquired experience after the program is completed. Look at it as your first interview in written form.

3. How do I do it? What should I say?

The SoP is a written document stating what you intend to do. It should be at least 2-3 pages long (if CEU doctoral student applies to the Doctoral Research Support Grants program or Exchange/Study Abroad program)

Approach this as you would any other academic writing.

Be clear, concise and consistent. Use an outline.

Be sure your statement is well structured.

Your spelling and grammar should be 100% correct.

Be Sure to Include:

- 1) Past experience and/or education IF it is directly RELEVANT to your motivations or what you intend to do in the future. This may also be a good chance to highlight unique qualifications or experience that will relate to your pursuits. Be careful and sparing with this type of information, however. Remember: You are talking about what you want to do, not what you've already done.
- 2) Your SoP: What do you want to do? Do you have a general idea about what you expect to achieve or do you have a specific topic in mind? How will you approach it? How will you proceed? Clarify these things. Be explicit. It shows that you are focused, determined and confident, and these things give the reviewers and overall impression of your CAPABILITY. This is what you want to convey.
- 3) Why you want to do it? Consider: Where are you applying? Why there and not one of the thousands of other institutions in the world? What sources or resources will this program make available to you? (You don't have to list every one – just state your case for chosen place). What do they have to offer you? How will it contribute to your dissertation? What benefit will you get from it? How does it follow along with your educational experience, your career path, thus far?
- 4) Finally, where will it lead?: What do you plan to do with this aspect of your education or career in the future? Where is it taking you, or more importantly, where are you taking it? Very briefly, give them an idea of your longer term goals. You don't have to be too specific about this, just show that you have some direction.

GENERAL STRATEGIES:

- ❑ Tell the truth! – Don't just put down what you think a review board will want to hear. Do a little soul searching. (It's good for you and your statement!)
- ❑ Be straightforward – Say what you have to say and move along to the next point. Don't ramble, or go into unnecessary details.
- ❑ Focus – On your intentions as regards this specific position. Not on your life story, or your prizes in kindergarten, or your maternal grandfather's wife's son's sister's niece's aunt's achievements in the field of atomic geometricity. Keep background to a relevant minimum. Remember: You are talking about your future here.
- ❑ Be positive – Show your ability and certainty. If you are not sure of yourself, why should anyone else be?

Good Luck!