

## UoADS Priority Project Pathway - Candidate statements

A '*candidate statement*' is an opportunity to articulate your academic (and non-academic) background and to explain why the research project you have chosen fits with your skills, interests and experiences. Candidate statements are limited to 500 words. If there have been any circumstances in your academic career to date that have limited your opportunity (including but not limited to caring responsibilities, periods away from academic study, disabilities) you can include an explanation of these circumstances in an optional '*statement of opportunity/priority*' which is not word limited so you can (and should) explicitly quantify these impacts.

Candidate statements, along with a supervisor support statement make up Part B of the ABI PG03 Statement of Research Intent (SoRI) form and are seen by the ABI Scholarship Committee only.

The candidate statement allows you to tell us about aspects of your background beyond your GPA, so focusing on academic grades alone in a candidate statement is not recommended. Try to be as positive as you can be in writing your statement, and focus on information about yourself that the ABI Scholarship Committee may not see elsewhere in your PhD application.

Aspects to consider in a candidate statement are outlined below.

### 1. ABI's Strategic plan

ABI publishes a strategic plan, which highlights areas on which we plan to focus and prioritise in the coming years. With your supervisor, talk about the strategic plan and whether there are areas of your research, or elements that relate to you as a candidate that may be highlighted in a candidate statement.

### 2. Why do you want to do this PhD?

What motivates you to study further and undertake a PhD? What is it about this particular area of study that interests you? This may relate to your background (i.e. some people chose an area of study that looks into something that has impacted them) or it may relate to something you've really found interesting and exciting in your study so far. What can you bring to the PhD?

### 3. Academic experience

Remember, the Scholarship Committee can see your GPA, and qualifications, so don't list information that they can see elsewhere. You can comment on the significance of aspects of your CV. For example, has there been a research project that you've really engaged in or a course that you have excelled in which relates specifically to your project?

### 4. Non-academic experience

Try to focus here on areas of your experience that are related to your PhD, this might be around experiences that are related to skills, or your character/experience. Think about things like independent work, project management, or leadership.

## 5. Your future

Finally, think broadly about your motivations for PhD research and where it might lead you. You may not have a clear “five year plan” and this is not expected. You should, however, articulate how research and PhD training might fit into your wider goals for the future.