

StatML – Guide for Statements

This document provides some guidance on what to include in the statement as part of your application to StatML. It is not compulsory to write your statement using this guide, but it is intended to offer advice on what to include if needed.

We expect statements to be around 1-2 pages long. We encourage you to write clearly and proofread your statement.

Introduce yourself

Summarize your academic background and motivation for doing a PhD/DPhil in statistical machine learning.

Why StatML?

Describe your motivation for applying to the StatML program and which aspects of the program appeal to you most.

Research interests

Describe which particular research topics within statistical machine learning you would most like to work on. Within this, you may want to:

- Discuss what inspires you to work on this particular topic
- Show some understanding of the topic (e.g. by citing a paper you enjoyed or mentioning a course that you took). We are not expecting a full research proposal, although if you have ideas for specific problems you would like to work on, feel free to mention them.
- Explain whether you are most interested in theoretical, methodological, computational, or applied aspects of the topic (or a mixture).

It is highly encouraged to mention the names of researchers from the StatML supervisor pool who you would be most interested in working with (you do not need to have contacted them in advance). You may discuss multiple research topics if there are different areas that you are interested in working on (1-3 is typical).

(Optional) Research experience

Describe any past research experiences and the aspects of these projects you particularly enjoyed. You could also discuss how they have motivated you to apply for StatML and/or any skills you have learned from past projects that you think will help with a PhD/DPhil.

(Optional) Contextual information

If there is any contextual information that would help us understand your CV or transcript better, and you feel comfortable sharing it, provide it here. We do not need to know details. For example, it is sufficient to write 'mitigating circumstances affected my year 3 grades'.

References

If you cited any materials (e.g. books or papers) in the main body of your statement you should give complete references for them at the end.