



## **Saudi Graduate Recruitment and Development KAUST Application Requirements How To: Statement of Purpose**

Writing a Statement of Purpose (SOP) is an important component of your application process. The SOP provides those reviewing your application a better insight into who you are as a person and student. When preparing to write your SOP, take a few minutes to reflect on the following questions:

- Why are you interested in this area of academia?
- What experience do you have in this field?
- How do you plan to use this degree after completing your studies?

Once you have considered the above questions, it is time to start drafting your Statement of Purpose. Below are key elements you will want to include:

- Statement of Purpose should be in essay format with 4-5 paragraphs
- Font and font size need to be consistent throughout the document
- Maximum of two pages, 750 words
- Use this document to highlight your knowledge and experience in your field of study
- Include how your interests and experiences align with those of the university

### **Statement of Purpose: Essay Format**

Before submitting your Statement of Purpose make sure the content follows the below format:

**Paragraph 1:** Why are you interested in this area of academia? When did you realize you wanted to pursue this area of STEM at a graduate level?

**Paragraphs 2 and 3:** Share 1-2 research experiences you have participated in. This can be a senior thesis project, internship, and/or job. Describe the skills you developed and what was accomplished.

**Paragraph 4:** Visit the KAUST website to learn more about the university faculty and current research taking place. How do your academic interests/experiences align?

**Paragraph 5:** Restate why you want to grow in the STEM field of your choice.

Once you have finished your Statement of Purpose, use this checklist to review your work before submitting:

- Did you follow the correct essay format (see below for more information)?
- Did you proofread for spelling errors, punctuation, and run on sentences?
- Did you ask 1-2 of your peers and/or instructors to read your SOP for feedback?