

How Do I Write a Great Statement of Interest?

- Write in lay terms, NOT disciplinary jargon -- SKHS is multidisciplinary unit so you will be communicating to faculty members with varied background and it is important that all are able to understand your goals and objectives clearly
- Be concrete, practical and feasible - sound like you know what you are doing and that you have a reasonable time to do it in - i.e. the SKHS Master's program is 2 years long and the Doctoral program is 4 years long - show how you can complete your proposed study in the relevant time period
- Avoid being vague, speculative or uncertain
- Do not use up space with excessive lists of courses
- Use inclusive language
- Be clear and concise, focus on organization and flow, use subheadings
- Proof read your work carefully
- Include your reasons for pursuing a graduate program in your field and explain where you hope to end up
- The more specific the better (especially for PhD applications) - think of this as a creative writing project
- Begin with your general research objective/what you are interested in studying, move to your background, finish with your motivations and future aspirations: What will be your contribution to the knowledge base in your area of study?
- Things you might include: Supervisor name and expertise, resources you will access i.e. libraries, journals, databanks etc.