

**A statement of research interest is a crucial part of most graduate school applications.**

The statement is generally in the form of a short essay. Basically it is your opportunity to tell those within the graduate program:

- Your specific area of academic interest (research topic you want to work on)
- How your past education and other experiences have prepared you to be successful in the graduate program
- What you hope to achieve in the graduate program
- Why this particular program at the University of Alberta is the best place for you to pursue your interests

**Other tips for a strong Statement of Research Interest include:**

- State any work you have done in this area already (mention specific skills/techniques you have picked up).
- Connect your area of interest to work being done in the program (mention specific faculty members and projects).
- Refer to academic publications that have informed your interest (use correct citation as footnote).
- Mention any publications, presentations or conferences you have been a part of.

**REMEMBER:** you are building a case that you are focused, skilled, enthusiastic, and a great match for the program in the Department of Psychology at the University of Alberta.