

SILICA SOP Guidance - 2024 Attempt

An SOP is a very personal statement. Please do not take the guidance in this document too specifically. Treat this as general guidance. Trust your own thinking and writing. Do not copy. Each candidate is unique, so each SOP will also be. There is no **ONE** right way to write an SOP. Just avoid making common mistakes / errors when you are writing. And Do not Worry!

1	What is a Statement of Purpose?
A	<p>A Statement of Purpose (SOP) is a written statement that tells the Admission Jury about you. They use the SOP along with results of your Written Exam, Studio Test, Portfolio and Interview to build their view about you as a candidate for admission. So, the SOP needs to be consistent with the other elements of the admission process.</p> <p>An SOP is about who you are. It is a way to describe your thoughts, goals, intentions, inspirations, passion, interests, accomplishments, commitment, personality and uniqueness.</p> <p>Design Schools ask candidates to write an SOP as part of their Application / Admission process. They may ask candidates to write a general SOP (e.g. ISDI, Srishti etc) or they may ask candidates to answer specific questions (e.g. NID etc).</p>

2	What should a general SOP contain?
A	<p>In general, you should have answers to the following questions in an SOP:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Who are you? What are your interests, hobbies etc? ii. What design field do you want to study in? And why (what inspired you)? iii. Have you done anything so far related to your chosen field of study e.g. Projects, Portfolio, Artworks etc? iv. What are your future goals, dreams, intentions? v. Why do you want to study from this particular design school?

3 What are the specific questions asked by Design Schools in SOP?	
A	<p>Different Design Schools ask different specific questions. If you are prepared for the general SOP questions given above, you should be able to answer these questions easily. For example, these are the questions asked by NID for 2024 application:</p> <p>NID BDes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Why have you chosen NID's Bachelor of Design Programme? ii. How do you think this course will help your academic plans and/or career ambition? iii. Please write a brief statement about yourself including details of your interests, hobbies, etc <p>NID MDes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. How do you think this course will help your academic plans and/or career ambition? [Not more than 1200 characters] ii. Please write a brief statement about yourself including details of your interests, hobbies, etc. [Not more than 900 characters]

4 What are general tips for writing an SOP?	
A	<p>Here are some of the most basic tips for writing a good SOP:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Be Yourself: Do not seek too much external guidance / tips. Let the thoughts come from you, not from someone else. II. Be Honest: Do not lie. Do not make up stories. Be authentic and honest. They will catch your lie. They are not looking for extra ordinary candidates, so do not try to be one. III. Reflect & then Write: Start with thinking on the above questions / points. Think deep, take time. Think about your life journey, experiences, accomplishments till now. Then start writing. You can write all your thoughts in the first draft. You should read it and then edit the draft to make it short, simple and clear.

	<p>IV. The Writing Style: You can use your regular writing style. Avoid casual or slang language or complicated words. Generally, try to keep it simple, easy to read, short sentences but giving a clear message. Do a spell check without fail. Use proper readable font and font size.</p> <p>V. Length of SOP: Generally they tell the maximum number of words / characters you can use. Please make sure you follow that. In general, it should not be too short, nor too long. Write just enough to communicate your points.</p> <p>VI. Be Humble & Eager to Learn: Avoid appearing like a “know it all”, “have already done a lot”. Appear humble, curious and eager to learn. Hence, balance your past accomplishments with your future aspirations and goals.</p> <p>VII. Connect with your Portfolio / Projects: If possible, include stories / instances, which led you to doing some of your portfolio pieces or other projects. This helps in connecting the dots in your personal journey.</p> <p>VIII. Proof Read and Get Feedback: Proof read your final SOP. You can also get feedback from your parents or friends. It may help you identify any glaring mistakes / holes in your SOP. But overall, trust yourself and your SOP.</p>
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5	What can I include in the question- “Tell us about Yourself”.
A	<p>Do not try to get to the right answer. There is no one answer to this question. Each candidate is unique and they want to see that. So do not copy anyone’s style or pattern.</p> <p>In general, you can include-</p> <p>I. Background: city, academic background, school / college etc. Do not ramble though. One sentence is enough.</p> <p>II. Interests / Hobbies: Everyone has hobbies like reading, music, movies etc. Some of you take training in particular areas of your interest like dance, singing etc. Everyone has some major likes e.g. pet animals, travelling etc. You can include these. Where possible, back it up with real life experiences with details.</p>

	<p>III. Accomplishments: You can include any significant accomplishments like winning competitions, olympiads. They could have some connection with your interests / hobbies.</p> <p>IV. Significant Issues that Move you: If you really feel deeply about something, you can express it here. Do not do it only for the sake of it. It must be backed by some real life experiences, which should be mentioned.</p>
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6	How do I answer the question about my program and institute choice? E.g. "Why have you chosen NID's Bachelor of Design Programme?"
A	<p>Do not try to get to the right answer. There is no one answer to this question. Each candidate is unique and they want to see that. So do not copy anyone's style or pattern. Do not follow these tips specifically, treat them as general guidance.</p> <p>In general, here are some tips-</p> <p>I. Research the Institute: The institute website is the best place to research about it. Read about it, what it stands for, what is its mandate e.g. https://nid.edu/about/mandates.</p> <p>II. Research the Program: Read about the program from the website- https://nid.edu/academics/programmes/bachelor-of-design-bdes. What will you learn, How will you learn, what does it cover, what are the different disciplines available at B.Des.</p> <p>III. Do not Copy: Once you have done the research, keep the website away. Do not copy text from the website into your SOP. Understand the gist only and write in your own words.</p> <p>IV. Reflect: Maybe you can consider reading up on "What is Design?". Think about why you want to study the design program and why from NID. Identify any people / experiences / situations, which inspired you to take the decision. Reflect back on your life and identify your motivations. You can mention them in the SOP.</p>

	<p>V. Connect with your Aspiration: Now you can connect your understanding of the Institute and the Program with your individual aspiration. They are just trying to see if you are clear about why you want to join NID and this program. They are hoping to see a well thought out reason for your choice. And not something like “I like art and drawing, so I want to join NID”.</p>
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7	How do I answer the question about my goals and career ambitions? E.g. “How do you think this course will help your academic plans and/or career ambition?”
A	<p>Do not try to get to the right answer. There is no one answer to this question. Each candidate is unique and they want to see that. So do not copy anyone’s style or pattern.</p> <p>For Bachelors candidates, it is okay to have a vague idea about your career ambition and future academic places. If you have a clear idea about which direction you want to take, mention that in your career / future academic plan.</p> <p>For Masters candidates, you need to have a clear view about your career ambition and how this course will help you get there.</p>

8	Can I see any examples of good SOPs?
A	<p>We strongly recommend not seeing other candidates’ SOPs. This can influence / corrupt your unique way of thinking and writing.</p> <p>However, if you must, we have included samples of SOPs written by past B.Des & M.Des students in the LMS. Here is the link where you can find the SOPs-</p> <p>https://learn.silica.co.in/course/view.php?id=21&section=9</p>

For more guidance, please visit- www.silica.co.in