



UCAS and Personal Statements Webinar

Dominic Fuge

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Dominic Fuge

**THE ESSENTIAL
GUIDE TO UCAS
PERSONAL
STATEMENTS**

Create an
attention-grabbing
personal statement
that **gets noticed**

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Overview of this session



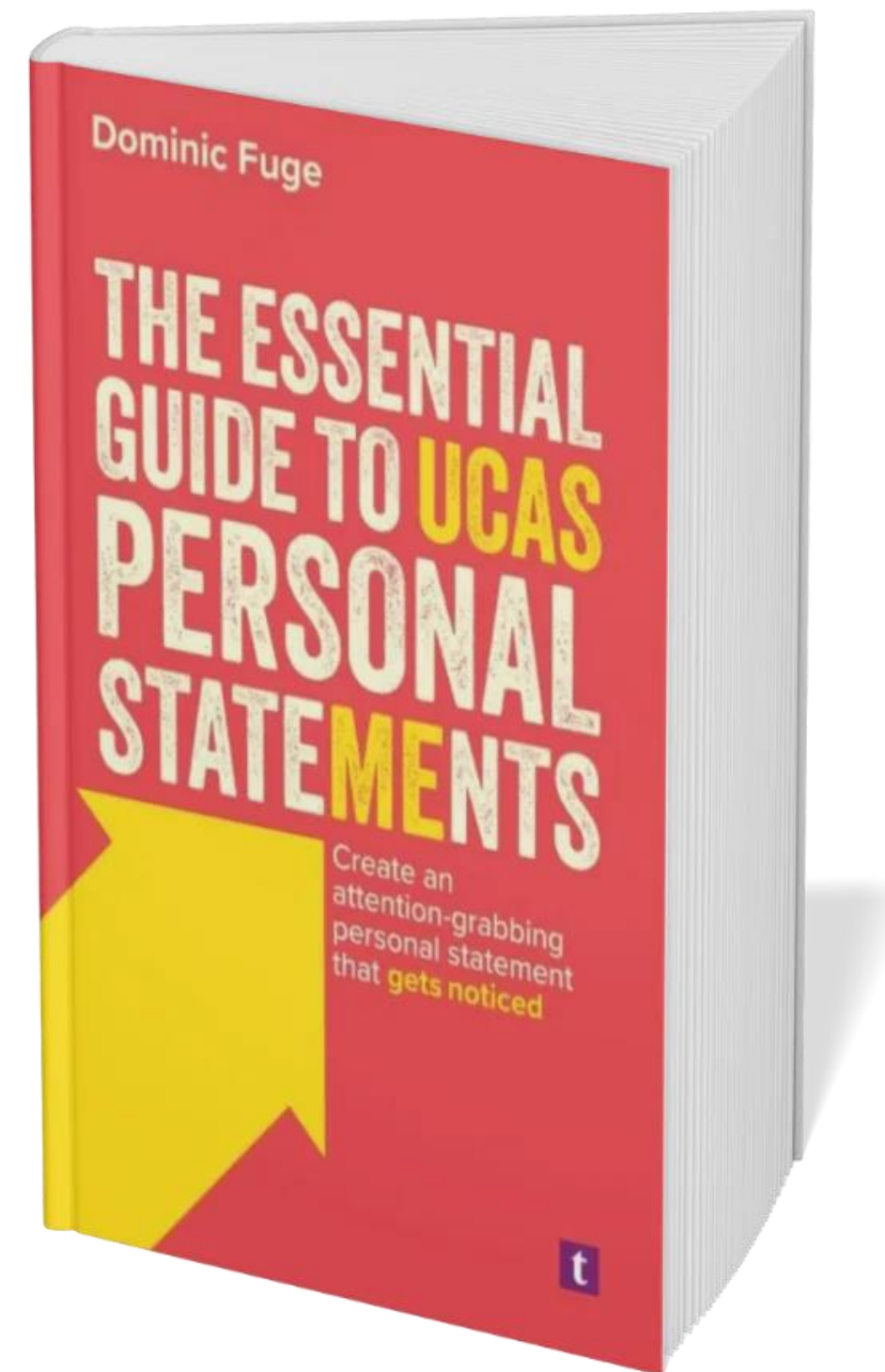
Brief introduction (to the book and self)



A personal statement 'masterclass'



University application strategy





Dominic Fuge



Head of Careers and Higher Education, at CSFC Cambridge



Fourth school



Background in teaching



Studied at Cambridge, Edinburgh and Durham



Attends international 'fly-ins', 'fam trips' and conferences



About this upcoming publication



Drawing upon experience and recent interviews with universities



Contains a total of 32 figures and tables – it's a resource, too



Six full personal statement examples, each with a commentary



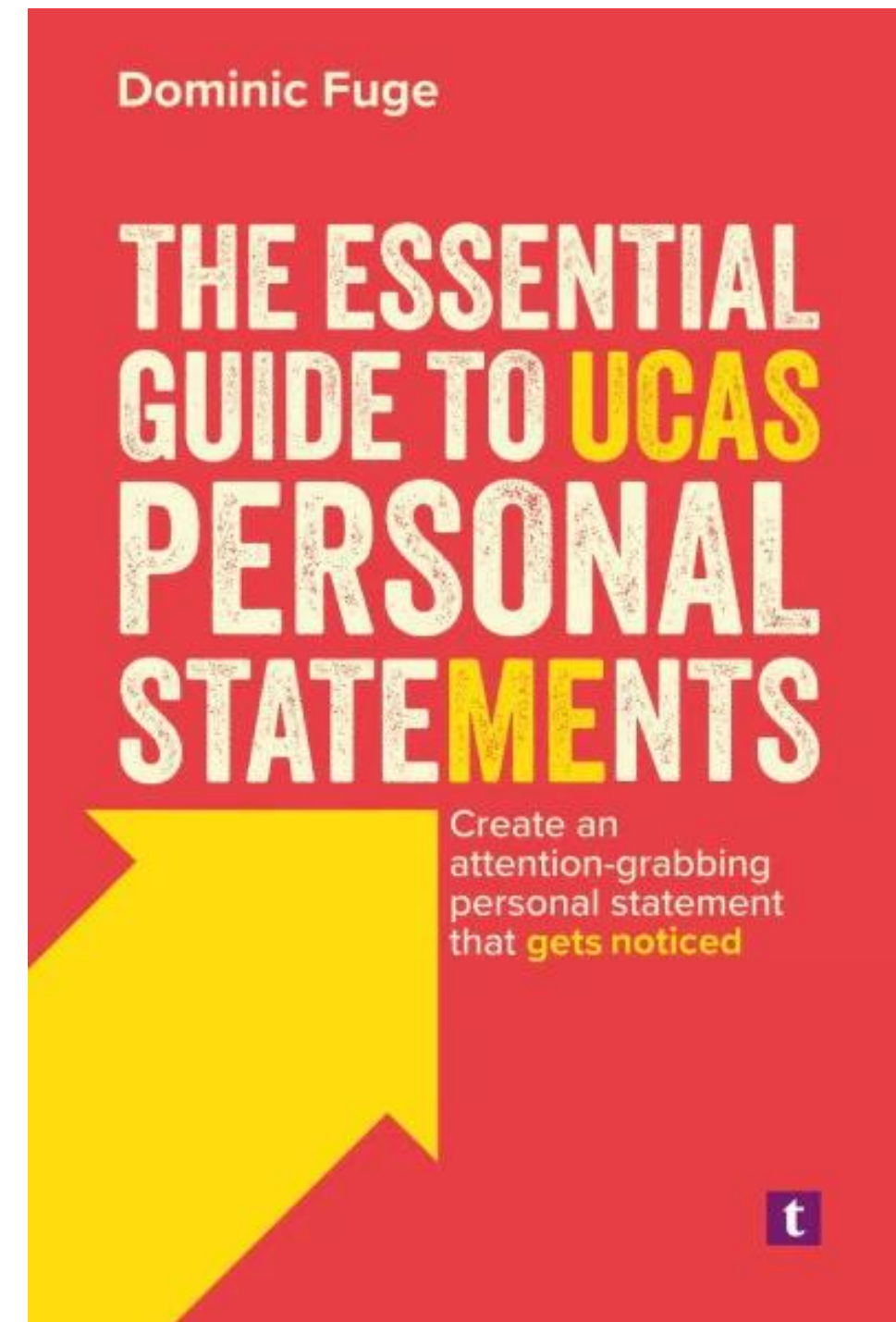
Full and comprehensive for all levels (e.g. both new and highly experienced staff)



Unique content and includes hot topics (e.g. use of AI)



Written for students as well as professionals





Chapters



Chapter One: Introduction and background



Chapter Two: Finding your right course



Chapter Three: Developing your super-curricular profile



Chapter Four: The writing



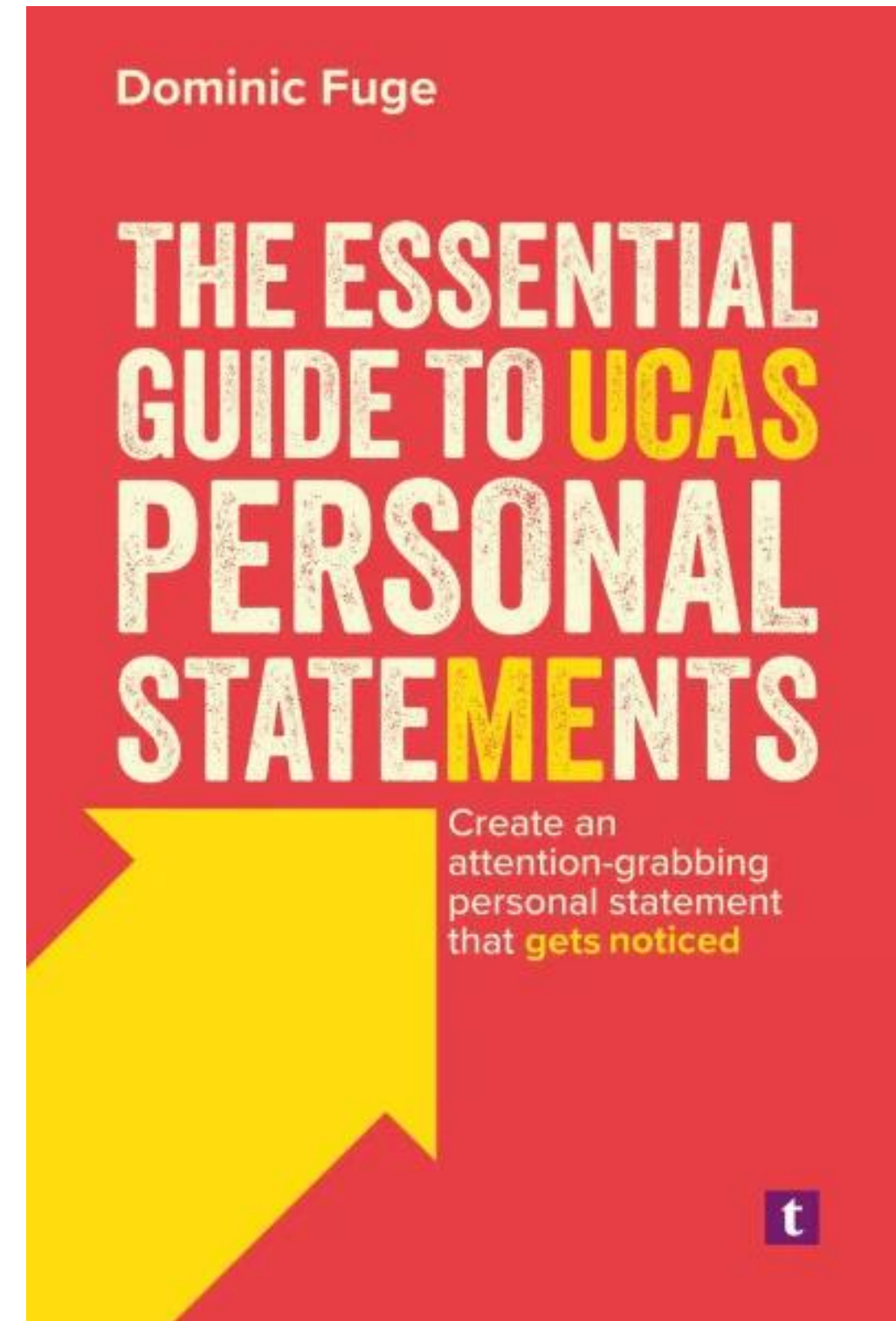
Chapter Five: After your writing



Chapter Six: Opportunities and challenges of using AI



Chapter Seven: Personal statement examples





Old vs. new UCAS personal statements

4,000 characters of free text

Recommended bulk being super-curricular (from G5)

A clearly defined structure as recommended – intro; main body & conclusion

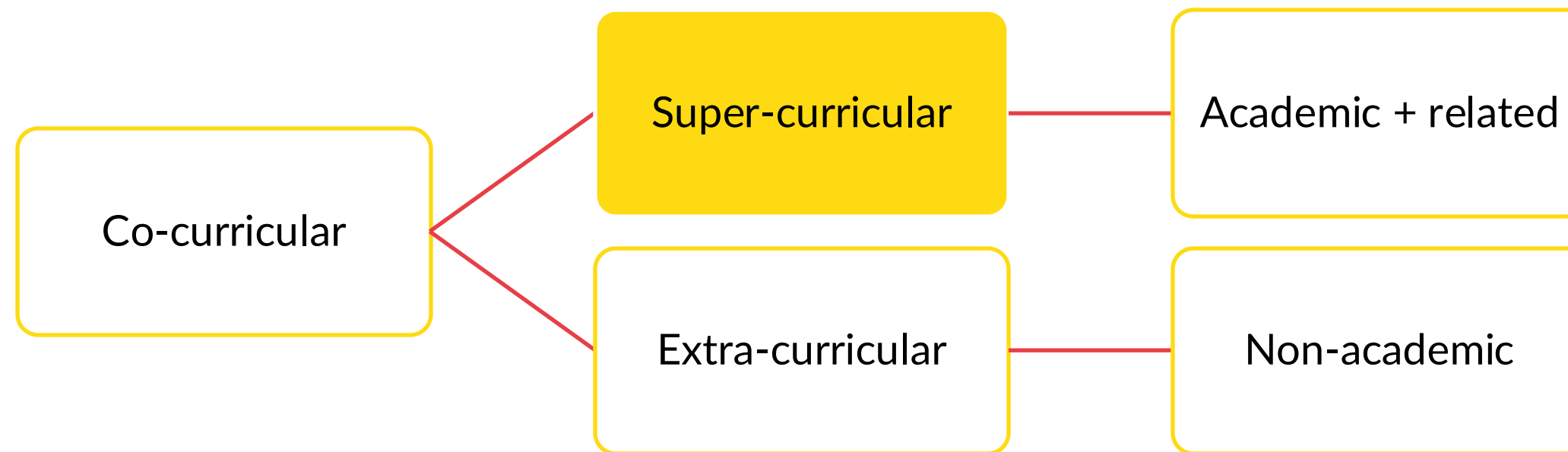
4,000 characters with three set questions (350 minimum in each section)

Recommended bulk being super-curricular (from G5)

Flexibility with choice on where to leave this content



Super-curricular content



- ☐
- Academic competitions

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐



The new three personal statement questions



Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject?

50-60%

2,200



Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject?

30-40%

1,400



Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful?

10%

400



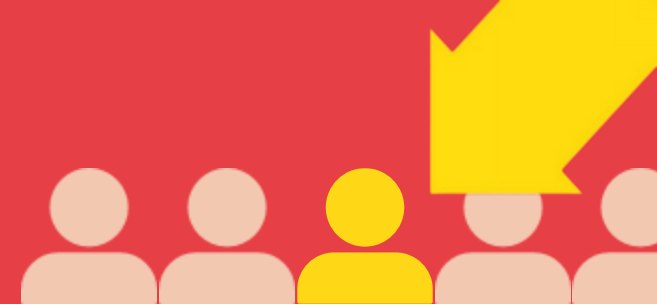
Question 1: Why do you want to study this course or subject? (2,181 characters)

Being raised in Bangkok's gold trade, my curiosity in Economics grew. Through my parents' gold shop, I pondered gold's high commodity value. Growing up in the shop, I surveyed customers' behaviour and the nature of the business. I questioned gold's distinctive characteristics of rarity, durability, cultural significance, and economic utility. I soon realised its investment appeal as a liquid entity and something able to withstand inflation and recession.

With my interest in the financial world, I questioned the past importance of gold. I examined the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis. I sought to understand how the Financial Crisis could have been prevented, creating a timeline of gold; I noticed the countries facing the worst of the crisis all lacked gold reserves. Historically, physical gold had little credit risk and was an asset outperforming others. Hypothetically, if these Asian countries reserved gold rather than foreign currencies, the aftermath perhaps could be less critical. I further researched this cataclysm, reading articles from the Economist and a paper entitled "Thailand's Monetary Policy Since the 1997 Crisis" by Nakornthob, and never thought that when the Thai government floated the Baht it would cause a chain reaction triggering the region's downfall.

My rumination of such world crises led me to read Taleb's "The Black Swan". A black swan event being one of rarity, extreme impact, and retrospective predictability. Taleb argued that many current models are outdated and lack robustness to predict such events, particularly with his explanation of survivorship bias through Wald's American aircraft armour anecdote. I believe tackling and preventing economic turmoil should come with precautions. Global issues cannot be solved using past solutions. Regardless of how similar an event is historically, we humans typically ignore little details and are careless to reach conclusions, as evidenced in duplicable situations like the "Dot-Com" Bubble.

From a childhood interest to a fundamental part of my current studies, Economics illustrates and solves society's greatest challenges. I see Economics as a pathway to my ambition of investment banking.



Question 2: How have your qualifications and studies helped you to prepare for this course or subject? (1,375 characters)

A Level Physics taught me to think logically in a process-driven way, undertaking Isaac Physics challenges and receiving a Gold in the Physics Olympiad. My team also won the Space Design Competition, where I calculated the costs of production of a new space settlement and most efficient resource allocation, linking to my Economics interest. Maths allowed me to refine my abstract reasoning skills, and I achieved a Silver in the UKMT Senior Challenge. Prior to my A Levels, I also maintained a keen interest in these subjects, earning a gold and “Best in School” in the UKMT Junior Challenge 2 years in a row. I also was awarded Gold awards yearly in the PAMA mental maths competitions, illustrating my ability to solve problems quickly.

Partaking in the NCH London Essay Competition 2025 I received “Highly Commended”. The task was to analyse possible impacts of Russian economic sanctions. I researched data and views from various sites and employed A-Level Economics knowledge to examine impacts across these regions: South America, Europe, Asia, and Russia. I argued that Europe was most likely to see the worst impacts, given their overdependence on Russian gas and that many countries are part of the EU tradebloc which condone Russia’s actions, whilst alternative nations remain more neutral. This experience taught me about citing and enhanced my analytical skills.



Question 3: What else have you done to prepare outside of education, and why are these experiences useful? (441 characters)

I enjoy language learning, currently practicing Mandarin, reaching HSK 3 level, a skill particularly useful in a globalised world where economics knows no bounds. I am a player for my local club's football team, earning the sportsmanship award. Moreover, I enjoy music, improvising songs on the piano, whilst also teaching myself the guitar. This shows my holistic development and willingness to contribute to all aspects of university life.



The new three personal statement questions



Strong grades are a byproduct of passion



It is essential to work in parallel

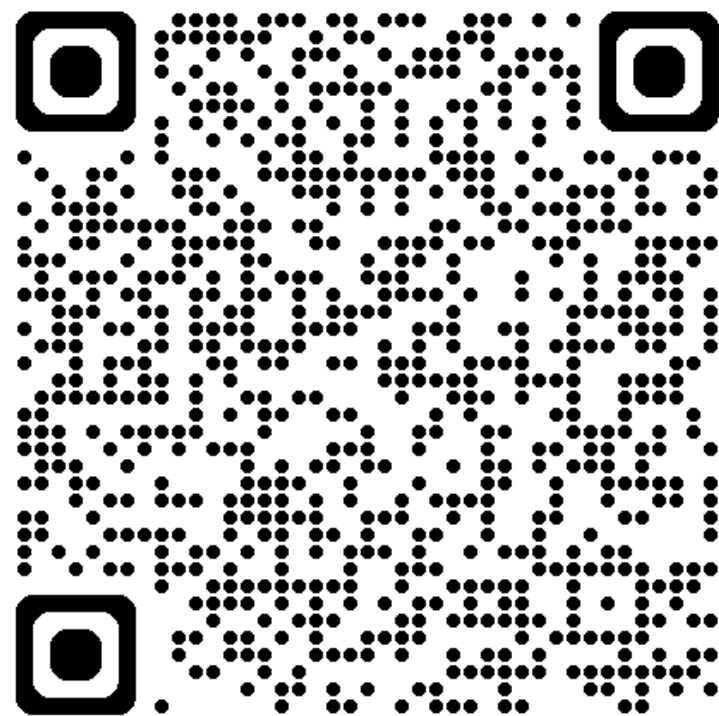


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