



# University Interview Preparation Worksheets

Congratulations! You've secured an interview at university - that's a *huge* achievement. You're well on your way to securing your place!

But there's still some work left to do. The questions and research suggested in these worksheets will help make sure you're fully prepared on the day, and ready to perform at your best.

Good luck!

## Part 1: Pre-interview research

It's important you know exactly what to expect so that you can gather everything you need and avoid any off-putting surprises on the day. Try to answer as many of these questions as you can.

### Where?

Let's start out with the basics!

**If your interview is in-person, answer the following:**

How will you get from your accommodation to the university? How long does it take?

Where on campus is the interview?

Contact details in case you get lost or delayed:

**If your interview is virtual, find out:**

How will you join the interview (e.g. Google Meet, Skype, Zoom)? Test out the software a few times!

Where will you be during the interview? Will there be people around?

What?

Now it's time to think about the university interview itself!

What format will the interview take?

Will there be material used during the interview (e.g. a poem to analyse, a medical case study, an exemplary essay)?

## Who?

A final crucial area to research is who will interview you. It could be what makes you stand out from the crowd! Some good places to look include the university website and the interviewers' social media profiles.

Try to find out:

What are your interviewers' specialisations/areas of interest?

What have they published recently? Try to read anything you can get hold of!

Do they lead/participate in any extracurricular societies, academic groups or journals, or activism?

## Part 2: Materials to revise before the interview

There are lots of important documents and materials you'll want to be familiar with before you head into the interview. We've prepared a checklist to get you started, but feel free to add any of your own.

- Personal statement/personal essay
- University application form
- List of extracurricular activities, work experience etc.
- Sample essays/work sent with application
- Any materials/books/people/concepts mentioned in your application
- The course and department pages on the university website
- The university's social media profiles
- Reading material required for first semester classes
- Articles or books published by your interviewers/other faculty members

## Part 3: Sample university interview questions

Now that you know the practical information, you can start thinking about what you'll be asked during your interview. Of course, you'll probably have some subject-specific questions, but there are lots of general areas that are likely to come up.

Here are some popular interview questions that you can prepare answers to.

### Questions about the institution

1. Why did you choose this university?
2. Why do you want to study in this country?
3. What do you like about our department?
4. Are there any faculty members you're especially excited to work with?
5. How do you think universities can foster diversity and inclusion?

### Questions about the subject

1. Why do you want to study this subject?
2. What is your favourite topic within this subject area?
3. What is your least favourite thing about studying this subject?
4. When did you decide this is what you want to study?
5. What are the most important current developments in your subject?
6. Why does this subject matter?

### Questions about you

1. How would you describe yourself/how would your friends describe you?
2. What are your strengths and weaknesses?
3. What's your proudest achievement?
4. What do you do in your free time?
5. What's the last book you read and why did you choose it?
6. What's your favourite newspaper or journal?

### Questions about your school

1. What A-Levels/IB/other qualifications did you choose and why?
2. What do/don't you like about the subjects you study?
3. What is your school like?
4. What do/don't you like about school?

### Questions about your future plans

1. What is your primary motivation for going to university?
2. How will university benefit your future?
3. Do you have any career aspirations?
4. Do you plan to continue your studies past your undergraduate degree?

## Part 4: Questions for you to ask

We'll end the worksheets just as the interview is likely to end - with *your* questions.

It's really important that you have some interesting and useful questions ready, so that your interviewers know you're curious and excited about the course.

Your questions should be things that you genuinely want to know about - check out the degree and department university pages for inspiration (and to make sure you don't ask for information that's readily available).

To get the ball rolling, here are some examples of questions you can ask:

1. What are three important characteristics of a good student?
2. What's the key to succeeding on this programme?
3. What teaching methods are favoured in the department?
4. What skills will students gain in the different stages of the degree?
5. What's the most exciting aspect of the degree?
6. What do graduates go on to do?
7. How might the university change or develop during the course of the degree?