

Tips Before Interview

1. **Read the prospectus** – have an idea about the course and university to show you're committed to studying there.
2. **Look over your Application/UCAS** – it's often the basis for interview questions so make sure you can talk about the things you've said on it in detail.
3. **Read over your A-Level subject notes** – you may be asked why you took a particular A-Level or what parts of your A-Levels you enjoy.
4. **Read a quality newspaper or magazine related to your subject** – interviewers may ask for your opinions on current affairs or developments in your field.
5. **Have a mock interview** – get a teacher you're not familiar with to prepare a formal interview to give you an idea of what it will be like.
6. **Speak to students who've already had an interview** – ask them what to expect or if they have any tips.
7. **Prepare answers for common questions** – for example, why do you want to study this course or at this university?
8. **Think of some questions to ask in return** – how is the course assessed? What teaching methods are used? Although make sure they're not already answered in the prospectus.
9. **Plan your journey** – take into account rush hour traffic and finding the room/building so you arrive in plenty of time.

Tips For The Day

1. **Arrive early** – allow 20-30 minutes for traffic and finding the place. If you have extra time, take a look round the college/university or talk to other applicants.
2. **Dress smart** – formal clothing may be uncomfortable if you're at the college/university all day but it is important to make a good impression.
3. **Turn off your mobile** – you don't want any distractions in the interview and it will not impress the interviewer.

Tips For The Interview

1. **Be aware of your body language** – look at the interviewer, make eye contact and try to smile from time to time.
2. **Be enthusiastic about your course** – make sure you get your interest in the course across to the interviewer.
3. **Take your time with questions** – don't feel pressured to answer immediately, take a little while to develop your answers to avoid saying the first thing that comes into your head.
4. **Say if you don't understand a question** – interviewers don't expect you to know everything and will often prompt you or rephrase a question if you ask.
5. **Give full answers** – the interviewer is trying to find out about you, so make sure you tell them something. Don't waffle just to make your answers longer though.
6. **Don't try to bluff questions** – admissions tutors will know a lot more about their subject than you will. If you don't know the answer to a question be honest and admit it.
7. **Listen to the interviewer** – answer the questions asked rather than the ones you've prepared for.
8. **Ask questions** – use ones you prepared earlier or new ones you've thought of. It shows you're enthusiastic and will help you get more out of the interview.
9. **Try to relax** – interviewers will expect you to be nervous and will try to make you feel comfortable.
10. **Be yourself** – interviewers want to know about you, not just what tips you've read off the internet!

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do you want to study at this college/university?

Do some research and know about the college/university you are applying to.

What are you hoping to gain from the course and why have you chosen this course?

Talk about your future career plans and how the course might benefit you when you graduate.

What do you know about the course/subject you are applying for?

Read the prospectus.

Why are you interested?

Again talk about what you're interested in and what you hope to achieve by completing the course.

How would your friends and family describe you and what would they say is your best quality? Or they could ask "Tell Me About Yourself"

Share positive aspects of your personality and your achievements. Ask family/teachers to help you answer this question as it needs to be prepared. Try talking about your hobbies, passions and interests, what inspires you and give examples. I've helped with Scouts, DOE, Church groups, School Fundraising, After School Clubs etc. Make yourself memorable!

What do you do in your spare time?

Discuss teams you play or support, music, if you enjoy cooking, baking, dancing, cycling, reading etc

Where do you see yourself in 5 years' time?

Discuss what direction you are going in, if higher education route then how will the course help with your future career path/goals.

What are you motivated by?

A personal question that's sometimes asked so the interviewer can get to know you. Answer as honestly as you can e.g. I have a passion for ? subject or course you've applied for and it will help me fulfil my future desire to become.... I really became interested in this during a placement at.....

What are your strengths and weaknesses?

Once again the aim of the question is to learn more about you. Very difficult question to answer so please do ask family and teachers to help. Maybe something like I become a little too passionate about a subject and if I've school work to complete I don't relax until it's done! If you've a short coming don't say anything too negative. Keep it generic with something like I could definitely do with being a bit more organised but I'm getting better as I get older. If you ask my parent/carers they might say I could do with been tidier especially in the kitchen!

Do you have a question for me?

What is student life here or what do you enjoy most about the college yourself?

University Interview Questions:

Why did you choose the A Levels you are doing and what do you enjoy about them?

Why do you want to study this subject at university?

Why did you apply here?

If you've done any part-time work you may be asked what skills you've learnt from the role.

What do you think university can offer you.

Why should we offer you a place?

Why have you chosen not to take a gap year?