

# Interviews

## How to prepare for interviews

### I've sent my application. What happens next?

Your application is now being assessed by university admissions staff. While you're waiting for their answer, check the admissions process for each university you've applied to in their prospectus or website. Not all universities and departments interview applicants. You might be invited to a visit day or informal interview instead.

Some universities use interviews before making offers as part of their selection process. It's a fantastic achievement to get to the interview stage and means that the admissions staff are seriously considering making you an offer.

Many people find interviews to be a nerve-racking experience. However, with some careful preparation this doesn't need to be the case.

### Why interview?

Universities use interviews to find out if you are suitable for the course you have applied to. They are also a good opportunity for you to find out whether your chosen course is the right one for you.

Interviews are always carried out for some courses that require strong 'people skills'. Universities might also interview you if the admissions staff want to find out a bit more about you, for example if you have non-standard qualifications.

### When will my interview take place?

Interviews are generally held between November and April. If you're invited to an interview, you will be sent details of the location, date and time of your interview.

### Do I need to bring anything with me?

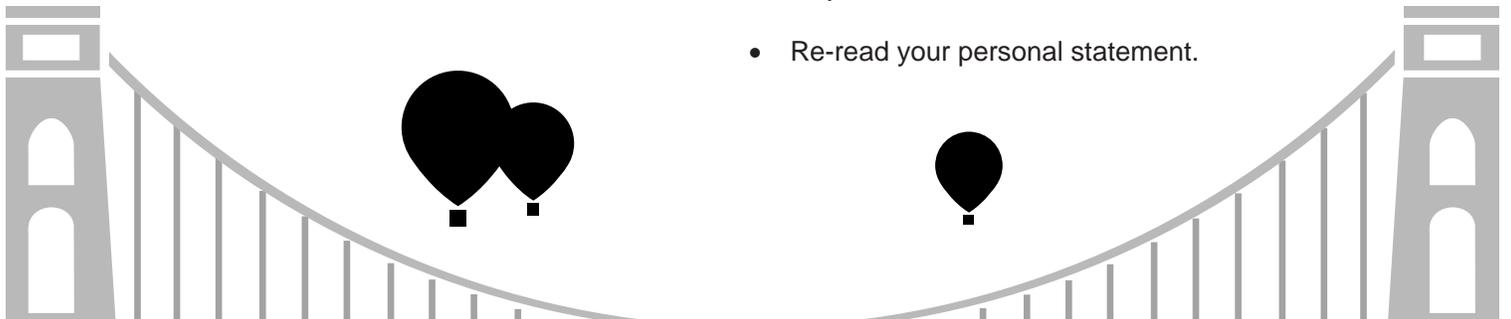
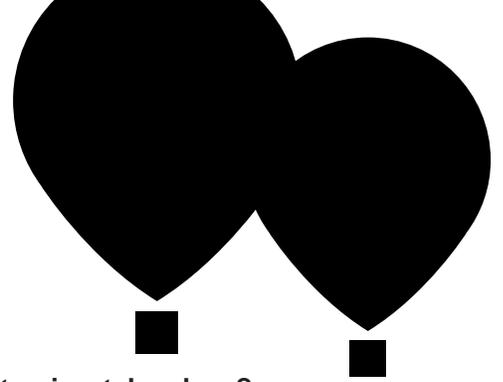
Read the letter or email inviting you for an interview to see if there is anything you need to bring. For the majority of subject interviews, you are not usually expected to bring anything – just you!

### What should I wear?

Find out if there is a dress code for your interview. If not, wear something reasonably smart that you feel comfortable in.

### How can I prepare for the interview?

- Try to think of the obvious questions you might be asked, such as why you have applied to this particular university or course.
- Practise a few responses for those obvious questions. Say them out loud as well as writing things down, and do 'mock interviews' with your careers adviser, teachers or your parents/carers. It might feel weird at first, but it's a great way to build confidence.
- Make sure you can demonstrate an up-to-date knowledge of your subject. Look at recent news articles and websites and read as widely as you can.
- Re-read your personal statement.



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### Which subjects require an interview at Bristol?

- Dentistry
- Medicine
- Gateway to Veterinary Science.

You may also be asked to an interview for other subjects if you have non-standard qualifications or if you've been out of education for some time.

### What can I expect from an interview at Bristol?

Some interviews at Bristol use the **MMI** format. These are a series of **multiple mini interviews** that assess your skills through various tasks. The number of tasks you have may vary, depending on the subject you are hoping to study.

Tasks may include:

- A data handling question
- A practical task following written instructions
- A communication scenario - someone asking you a 'what would you do if...?' question
- A problem-solving scenario - someone asking you 'what would you do if you were asked to...'

Not all subjects interview in this way.

### I'm really nervous about the interview. What should I do?

Interviewers aren't there to catch you out. They are genuinely interested in you and your application. They expect people to be a bit nervous. Their interview questions will help them assess your ability to communicate, analyse a problem and manage stressful situations. They'll probably ask why you want to study this particular course, and find out what you know about the course content and future career options.

It may sound daunting, however the process is designed to give you the best chance to show off all of your skills and knowledge. No one is expecting you to get all of the answers right, after all, you're not at university yet! Your interviewer will be interested in your enthusiasm for your subject, evidence that you are willing to work hard and your problem-solving abilities.

### What if I can't make the interview?

When you receive your invitation to interview, you may have a choice of dates, therefore we would hope that you will be able to make one of them.

### When will I find out if I've been successful?

In most cases, you should expect to hear the outcome of your interview in two to three weeks. Your UCAS Track will be updated when universities have sent their decisions to UCAS. Also keep checking your emails, as most universities will contact you this way too.

### Useful resources

For more information on interviews, please visit: [bristol.ac.uk/applicants/interviews](http://bristol.ac.uk/applicants/interviews)

