

## Year 13

### Preparing for University Interviews

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018

1. \* Student Ambassador01: Hi, my name is Ailise and I am currently in my 6th year studying Medicine. The theme for today's forum is Preparing for University Interviews. For those of you who are new to the forums, you are welcome to ask me questions either directly related to the theme or about any other aspect of university life. Anything I can't answer I will refer on and someone from the Exeter Scholars team will get back to you with a response in the next few days. For those of you that have logged on before, welcome back!

Before we start I just want to give you a quick overview of how the session itself works in case you've not used one before.

When you post a message it will be sent to me to reply to and will show on your wall as awaiting reply. When I reply to your message it will then post to the public wall for you and everyone else to see. Until I have replied, no-one else will see your message. Bear with me, as when it gets busy it will take me a few moments to reply – but don't worry, you won't have been forgotten!

2. \* Student Ambassador02: Hi, my name is Holly and I am currently in my 3rd year studying Mathematical Sciences, feel free to ask me any questions as well

3. \* Student Ambassador01: I hope that all makes sense...to get us started, does anyone know if they will need to do an interview for their chosen course?

4. Lydia Knight: Hi, do you know if Exeter requires interviews for business and accounting?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Lydia,

I'm not actually sure about specific subjects. I'm a maths student so typically mathematical type degrees don't get asked for an interview however all courses and universities are different. I would advise looking at the course on the Exeter website and if you are unsure you could email the admissions team for a quick response

5. Nicole Jones: I want to study English Lit & Spanish so I doubt I'll be interviewed, but I know under some circumstances they might decide to interview someone anyway

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Nicole,

If you do require an interview they will inform you with enough time to prepare

6. Joseph Davidge: Hey, yeah I need to do an interview. I have applied for physics. How long would say an interview is?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Joseph, interviews can vary in length depending on the course you are applying to and at which University, as they may vary in interview style. But a normal interview it probably last 20-40 minutes.

7. Nicole Jones: How can you prepare for an interview?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Nicole,

The best way I find preparing for an interview is planning ahead. The best way to do this is thinking about common questions they are likely to ask and coming up with a pre-planned answer. You can even search online for people who have done the same type of interviews for common questions they were asked. This way you have an answer that you can change to fit any question they might ask you. Hope this helps

8. jack munday: Hi, I was wondering if there was a dress codes for interviews?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Jack, generally it is recommended to dress smartly, or example shirt, trousers and smart shoes. It should help you make a good first impression and also hopefully make you feel more confident!

9. Vanessa: Hello, I'm really nervous about living with people I have never met before, how would you say is the best way to get to know your flat mates?

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Vanessa! First off - it's totally normally to feel anxious about living with new people, so remember that you won't be the only one feeling like this when you start! Everyone will be looking to make new friends so mostly people will be open to getting to know each other! At the University of Exeter and many other universities they ask you about your like and dislikes when you apply for accommodation so they can try and put you in flat with people with similar interests! Try suggesting doing fun news things with your flatmates for example exploring the city, going out for dinner, to a social event or trying a taster class!

10. EMILY PULLEN: Hello, the course I am applying for at Exeter doesn't need an interview but my others do. How much preparation would you say is necessary for interviews? Thanks!

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Emily,

I'd say you need the right balance of preparation as you don't want to prepare too much and then become stressed if what you prepared doesn't get asked. For all of my past interviews I came up with 4 or 5 pre pared answers for common questions they may ask. For example 'why are you interested in this course/position' or 'show an example of leadership and independence'. With a few prepared answers, you can then change them a little to fit multiple questions asked and can remain calm and seem confident.

11. Joseph Davidge: okay thank you. How soon after your interview do you normally hear back from the university?

\* Student Ambassador01: That's quite a tricky one - unfortunately it can vary massively! Some universities will conduct all of their interviews before making any offers, which means if you were one of the first interviewed you could be waiting for a while to find out! If you want to know for a specific university I would recommend looking at the course applicants' website pages as it may give some information about when they make offers, but also if you are waiting to hear back you can always ring the department directly and they should be able to give you a more accurate answer!

12. emily skipp: Hi, my name's Emily Skipp and I've applied for business management at Exeter University. I am currently unsure whether this course requires an interview, however I have been invited to an application day from a few. Of my uni choices, I am unsure of what these days are and what the universities are looking for on these days?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Emily,

Generally application days at universities are like another open day for those students who have applied to that university, but less generalised for the student. It's a chance to talk more specifically to academics on your course as you know you have definitely applied to be there. If there is any doubt it's always worth having a look at past days on the university website

13. Vanessa: Also, are the questions asked in interviews more focused on the interviewee's personal life or academic?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Vanessa,

I'd say that it is a balance between the two. They want to get to know you as a student and this involves both academia and what you are like as a person. Similar to the kind of balance required in a personal statement so there could be questions like 'Why do you want to study the subject' but also questions like 'What are your main interests'

14. (Deleted) Nicole Jones: How does Exeter as a city compare to other cities? Is it as interesting/does it have as many opportunities in terms of nightlife & social areas

\* Student Ambassador01: Hi Nicole. I love Exeter as a city, but I guess it depends what you are comparing it to! It has a surprisingly good amount of nightlife options for a smaller city, including lots of different pubs, cocktail bars and clubs. The town centre has also had quite a lot of redevelopment done in recent years so it has great shopping and loads of restaurants. There are also a range of different things to do in the day, for example lots of cute cafes, a board game cafe, escape rooms, a climbing wall and kayak/bike rentals down by the Quay.. Also one of the great things about it being a slightly smaller city is that you can walk everywhere!

15. \* Student Ambassador02: Everyone,

Does anybody have any tips themselves about preparing for interviews that they would like to share? Maybe from a part time job or mock interview you experienced?

16. (Deleted) Joseph Davidge: Would you say getting invited to an interview is a good thing? and how many people who get an interview get an offer?

\* Student Ambassador02: Hi Joseph,

I would say that an interview is a good thing. It gives you a chance to express why you have applied to that university specifically, as you can't really do that in a personal statement because the same one is used for all the places you applied to. Often universities ask for interviews to see examples of work or see how well you can work in group activities or tests in person, but all interviews are different and they will tell you what is required of you to bring. In regards to have many people get an offer, that depends on the size of the university and the size of the course and whether that have offered places yet or not, there isn't a fixed number I'm afraid. Hope this helps

17. \* Student Ambassador01: Everyone,

Does anyone have any more questions they'd like to ask about university interviews or life at university more generally?

18. \* Student Ambassador02: Everyone, or anything about your application process in general and what to do next

19. \* Student Ambassador01: Thanks very much for taking part in today's online forum; I hope you've found it useful! Details of the next session can be found at [www.exeter.ac.uk/exeterscholars/currentparticipants/liveonlineforums/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/exeterscholars/currentparticipants/liveonlineforums/). If you have questions in the meantime, please contact the Exeter Scholars team, who will be happy to help: [www.exeter.ac.uk/exeterscholars/contact/currentparticipants/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/exeterscholars/contact/currentparticipants/).

Open Questions (2)

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20. Vanessa: Thank you both, that's very helpful.

21. Joseph Davidge: Yeah that helps thank you

22. (Deleted) Nicole Jones: Do you have lectures & things at the weekend or just Monday – Friday?