

# Student Finance & University Interviews

## [Student Finance website](#)

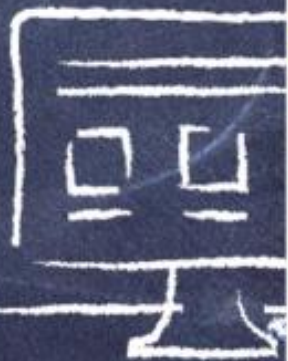
The application process for 2019/20 will open in Feb, so keep checking.

# Interviews

University, Apprenticeships, Jobs

# Getting to know different types of interview

## Online test



Common types of psychometric test include ability, situation-based judgment and personality tests

## Phone



A quick and easy way to spot the best people to invite for a face to face interview

## Face to face



Used to get to know each other and assess whether you're a good match

## Video



Somewhere between a phone interview and a face to face interview, the video call is generally a straightforward meeting

## Panel



Different people can get to know the applicant

Finds out how you perform in front of an audience or under pressure

## Group



Finds out how you work with others in a team and communicate, or how you might fit in

## Purpose of Interview

- Are you right for them?
- Are they right for you?
- Show your ability to think & communicate
- Show yourself at your best

## Preparation: 2 stages

1. Content

2. Delivery

- Worrying does not count as preparation
- ‘Winging it’ will not lead to success

## Interview Content - Getting Started

- Carefully read and re-read all of the information you have been sent about your interview (print & highlight if possible)
- Research the organisation and the role / course. Talk to someone who has already been through the application process.
- Make sure you have the material / portfolio / evidence / certificates that they are asking you to bring.
- Make a note of the key logistics (where & when)

...Now you're ready to focus on the content of the interview itself

# Interview Content

## The Basic Stuff You Can & Should Prepare

You will need:

- a computer/pen & paper
- copy of the course/job outline
- to be prepared to give this significantly more than 5 mins thought



# Interview Content

## The Basic Stuff You Can & Should Prepare

Research the kind of questions that might come up and think about answers to Key Questions:

- Why this course/job?
- Why this university/company?
- How have you demonstrated your commitment to your subject/the role?
- What attributes would you bring?  
(HONESTY; SELFLESSNESS; RESILIANCE; PROBLEM-SOLVING; INITIATIVE)
- What examples do you have of...?

## Interview two – first job/apprenticeship

1. Describe what you think you will be doing in this role and what interests you about our organisation?
  - Demonstrate knowledge of the organisation and sector, include facts, how this links to your longer term aspirations, reference transferable skills you have
2. What can you bring from your past experiences and what have been your achievements?
  - Give specific examples, reference transferable skills, keep it relevant, talk about successes and challenges and how you have approached them
3. Tell me about a time when you had an idea to do something in a different way to get the result you wanted.
  - Showcase a specific example, give context, demonstrate the impact
4. Describe a time when you have worked as part of a team
  - Highlight a specific example, reference your role in the group, demonstrate organisation and communication skills, successes and challenges
5. Describe a time when you've had to deal with a difficult situation or individual, what made the situation demanding and what was the outcome?
  - Give context, how did you feel, clearly explain your actions and the impact and outcomes, end on a positive
6. Talk me through how you keep up to date with our industry, from how it's changing to the impact of technology
  - Show initiative, include facts and reference sources, give your own opinion, show enthusiasm

# The STAR model



# Interview Content

## Preparing for the Unexpected

### Main Part of Interview and / or Multiple Mini Interviews:

- Be aware of current issues in your subject area (BBC / The Conversation / Nature / Newspapers / New Scientist...)
- Carefully read any material you have been sent
- Work through example scenarios provided or potentially difficult situations that require you to show judgement
- From the example scenarios, think of other possible scenarios and work out your response to them

## Interview Delivery

You will feel nervous no matter how much you prepare

You can prepare yourself to deal with being nervous

Research suggests that moderate levels of anxiety help performance

Try the [‘I’m excited’](#) technique

- Once you’ve done your thinking, talk through your answers/ideas aloud and do this multiple times
- Don’t worry about being word perfect – that’s not the aim. It’s about getting comfortable hearing your own voice
- Practise making eye contact when speaking
- Play the WHY game - get someone to listen to you and keep asking you why – this will help you get used to developing your ideas. If you get stuck then don’t stop just buy yourself some time by saying ‘I’m not sure but...’

## In Summary

- Take the initiative and do the obvious thinking now
- Be prepared to spend time on it - assign study periods / specific evenings
- Talk through your responses (preferably with others but on your own is better than nothing)
- Learn to develop your responses by keeping on asking why
- Remember that the aim isn't to catch you out but a chance for you to show yourself at your best



- Interview Questions & Model Answers
- [https://www.barclayslifeskills.com/i-want-to-prepare-for-an-interview/school/virtual-interview/?utm\\_source=direct&utm\\_campaign=&utm\\_medium=\(none\)&utm\\_term=\(none\)&utm\\_content=\(poster\)%20activation\\_packs](https://www.barclayslifeskills.com/i-want-to-prepare-for-an-interview/school/virtual-interview/?utm_source=direct&utm_campaign=&utm_medium=(none)&utm_term=(none)&utm_content=(poster)%20activation_packs)





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