

Interview

Top Tips: Preparing for an interview

Congratulations! Your application was strong enough to meet the course requirements, so you've been invited to an interview.

Why do I need to have an interview?

Being invited to interview gives you the opportunity to demonstrate your self-motivation and commitment to your chosen course. It's as much about you deciding if the course and University are right for you as it is about the admissions tutor deciding if they wish to make you an offer.

Here are some tips to help you prepare for an interview:

Preparation is Key!

It's natural to be nervous – interviewers know, understand and expect this and therefore make allowances. However, good preparation beforehand can help overcome any interview nerves.

Here are some points to consider:

- Allow plenty of time to get to your interview and check your route beforehand.
- Make a note of the admissions team's contact details in case you're running late.
- Make sure you check the portfolio guidelines for the course and feel prepared for the day.
- Find out the structure and style of the interview. For example, at AUB we invite groups of applicants to interview. After you're collected from reception, most interviews will start with a group talk about the course, with time for a Q&A. Then the academic staff look at your portfolio, talk to you about it, and ask why you want to do the course.
- Be prepared to discuss practitioners you admire or dislike and why. Think about who inspires you and influences your work, and why.
- We want to see how you develop work from concept to finished piece, so be ready to talk about this as well as the work itself.
- The interview might seem very brief, but don't worry – the academic staff see many portfolios and know what they're looking for.
- Drawing is a key skill for most of AUB's portfolio courses so be prepared to show some sketches, notebooks and life drawing.
- Stay calm, breathe, and don't panic if your mind goes blank for a minute.
- Practice with friends or teachers so you feel prepared for the real thing.

Knowledge is Power

When preparing for your interview, it's important to have a good knowledge of what the admissions tutors are looking for.

Here are a few things they want to see:

Personality – Just be yourself and let your natural charm shine through. Don't let the occasion intimidate you.

Potential – Will you be better tomorrow than you are today? Interviewers know that everyone has had different opportunities during their education and they're going to try to look past your current level of ability into the future. The best way of showing potential is by trying to respond knowledgeably to all the questions you're asked.

Teachability – Are you going to benefit for the course? Will you turn up to lectures and tutorials and, more importantly, will you learn anything while you're there? Will your lecturer find it interesting to teach you? Interviewers want to see someone with an inquisitive mind that's open and hungry for new ideas. Ask questions during the interview – it's a two-way process and we'll expect you to have some questions for us.

Motivation – Finally, the interview is not an exam; no one is going to test you on what you know. However, you must show the most important quality: motivation. How much do you really want to study your subject? Speaking with enthusiasm and discussing the variety of activities you've done that are linked to your subject, both inside and outside the classroom, will make a good impression. Remember that nothing conveys passion as much as the love of your current studies, independent research, outside reading done in your own time and further investigation of the subject.

Applying to AUB?

If you're applying to AUB, all our portfolio-based courses have portfolio guidelines on the course pages of our website. You should use these guidelines to help you prepare for your course interview. Visit aub.ac.uk/portfolios for more details.