

Questions to expect at a College Interview

Here are some of the most common questions to help you prepare for a college interview.

Why have you decided to apply to us?

Show you've thought through why you've applied, and that you've researched your choices. Is it their reputation, or the course or programme they offer? How impressed were you at the open day, or with the leisure facilities? Whatever it is, be specific.

What are you hoping to gain from the course?

They want to know that you see this course as a way to get you where you want to go – whether it's a job or career, something you just want to continue to study, or that you're aiming for university.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

If you know, that's great – but very few people do, and that's fine! There's no trick here, just be honest. If you haven't got a plan, it's perfectly okay to say 'I'm not sure at the moment. I see this course as a great next step and think it will help me decide where to go and what I want to do'.

What do you think your strengths and weaknesses are?

This one can be tricky. Your strengths may be easy – trustworthy, hard worker, reliable. If you were a school prefect, be sure to mention it. But what do you say when it comes to weaknesses? No-one wants to promote their flaws but at the same time, no one is perfect, so you need to say something. Can you get too enthusiastic about a project and go off the point? Has your time management been a bit weak but now you know how to plan better and stick to it?

Do you have any questions for me?

This is a big one and usually finishes off the interview. It's your chance to get the information you need to be sure this is what you want to do, and to show you've thought it through and done your research.

Aim to have at least two or three questions prepared. They could be about the course or tutors, or maybe you want to follow up on something mentioned at the open day. Write questions down before you go to the interview so you can refer to them. If by chance they have answered all your questions during the course of the interview, tell them that