

We asked our alumnae for their top online interview tips as University admissions go digital...



It's ok to pause and take a breath. Don't feel you have to launch into an answer straight away. It will feel like ages but it won't be.

Being interviewed at any level is a nervous position to be in even if you have been preparing for weeks. Sometimes jumping straight into your answer to a question can lead you to giving an answer that becomes muddled and loses its way. Taking a breath before answering the question will give you that brief moment to truly figure out what the interviewer is asking for and allow you to consider your answer and any examples you want to provide to make sure it meets exactly what they want.

Listen to the Interviewer and don't ramble. Be succinct in your answers.



Dress as you would for a real-life interview and that doesn't mean just changing into a nice top.



Be familiar with the software that you're going to use! If you're not told in advance, it would be a good idea to contact the university to ask.

Remember to look at the camera rather than at your image on the screen. Lift your laptop/camera so it is at your eye-level - looking down just isn't flattering!

With an online interview, you can always strategically place post-its behind your webcam to remind you of key points.

Try a test with a friend/family beforehand to practice saying your answers to a camera/laptop.

Make sure you're in a quiet room and won't be disturbed.



Think about your background - be aware of what is there. If you are in front of a bookshelf, have an idea of the titles or objects that are on it - they may be used as an icebreaker. You may want to put something there that you are able to discuss if required.

Make sure you are comfortable. Have your camera set up so you don't have to slump in your chair or slouch. Sitting up straight and having the camera at eye level will help you feel more confident and will stop you getting aches and pains during the interview.

Make sure you have a gentle light source in front of you (preferably natural light from a window if possible) - definitely avoid light behind you - you will be no more than a silhouette.



Follow the Instagram account 'hanblox'. She posts videos for how to answer common interview questions. She also shares her tips on raising your productivity and applying your ambition.



Demonstrate that you can be a sponge for knowledge, not a blank canvas. It is important to know that they are not expecting you to already be the expert in whatever field you seek to study however, they are hoping you have a more than superficial interest. They are looking for a candidate that can show potential in the discipline; not necessarily that you want a PhD in it but understand university-level scholarship and have an awareness of what the course entails.

Look at some reading material from the core modules and pick out modules that are interesting to you; present to your interviewers why you want to be chosen for that course and that you understand what is expected of you.

Research those who may be interviewing you; teaching staff profiles and their published works or ongoing projects are available online. Being able to say you 'found X's work from the department interesting' or would like to 'learn more about project Y and would be interested in any opportunities to work on such a project', shows that you have looked well beyond the UCAS page and are interested in much more than the events of freshers week.

Make sure you think of different ways the same question can be asked. For example : "what do you think you could bring to the medical profession?" is essentially the same answer as "why do you think you'd be a good doctor?" or "what skills do you have that would make you a good doctor?"

And remember, Breathe, smile and know that if you've been offered an interview they already know you are a good candidate!