

Interview Guide

The interview is an important part of your application process to a boarding school. Typically, you will be asked questions about your motivation and career. To help you prepare, we would like to provide you with an interview guide.

First of all, a few tips:

- It is perfectly ok to be nervous before your interview, try to stay calm, your interviewer is very experienced and knows how to conduct the interview, so your nervousness will subside quickly.
- If it helps you to reduce your nervousness, practice the interview with your parents, siblings or friends.
- It is not the best way to start an interview if you have to sort out technical problems first. Therefore, we advise you to complete the technical preparation for the interview (e.g. download a video call programme, create an account, add a user, etc.) at least 15 minutes before the appointment. Nevertheless, keep calm in case of technical problems. We always send alternative ways of contacting you and if it doesn't work at all, you can also schedule a new appointment.
- The interview is not a one-way street, it is not only about finding out if you are a good fit for the school, but also vice versa, if the school is a good fit for you. You have already done a lot of research on the school beforehand, so try to prepare some questions that you can ask the school afterwards.
- Your parents are welcome to be present at the beginning or end of the interview. However, it is usually desired that you speak to the school alone during the formal part of the conversation (the interview).

Motivation:

- What is your motivation to continue your school career at a boarding school?
- What do you know about life at boarding schools, and how do you imagine life at a boarding school?
- What interests you about the foreign school system?
- What would you like to contribute to the boarding school community?

Personality:

- How would you describe yourself? What are your three most important character traits?
- What are your personal strengths and weaknesses?
- What makes you stand out from other applicants?
- What would you like to change about yourself?
- How would your teachers, family and friends rate and describe you?
- What is your family life like? Do you have siblings?
- When are you happiest?
- What do you do when you are stressed or anxious and what do you do to stay calm and relaxed in these situations?
- What has been your biggest challenge so far?

Interests:

- What are your interests and strengths at school?
- What and where would you like to study?
- How do you spend your free time, what hobbies and interests do you have?
- Do you like sports and what sports do you like (at what level)?
- Do you play an instrument or sing in a choir (for how long)?
- Do you like to read; which book did you read last?
- What topics have particularly preoccupied you lately?

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School-specific information:

- Why do you like this particular school? Why in this town/place?
- What do you already know about the school?
- Why do you think this school is the right one for you?
- Which subjects would you like to take at our boarding school and why?
- Which of the school's activities are you particularly interested in (music, art, sports, extracurricular activities, etc.)?

Additional questions:

- Current politics of the respective target country (just have a look at the country's own news or read the headlines of major daily newspapers).
- Questions about the history and concept of the boarding school
- You may be asked if you are applying to other schools at the same time. You don't have to be uncomfortable with this question and you can answer it honestly.
- Last but not least, this one always comes up: "Do you have any questions?" and it is good if you have thought of one or two questions in advance.

And finally, *your* questions:

This question always comes up: "Do *you* have any questions?" and it is good if you have thought of some questions in advance. Ask questions that help you to get to know the school better, and to which you can't easily find answers on the school's website. If you need some inspiration, have a look at the following sample questions:

- What is the start of the school year like for new students? How do you help new students to settle in?
- What is a typical school day like?
- What do boarding students do on regular weekends? What do boarding students do on exeat weekends (UK) / long weekends (USA, CAN)?
- I'm really interested in / passionate about [name an activity]. How regularly / at what level can I do this at [name the school]?
- How many students do [name a sport or activity] at your school?
- What are some highlights in the school year? What do students get really excited about?
- How would you describe the student culture at [name the school]?

We hope the questions will help you a little in preparing for the interview and wish you good luck. Please give us a short feedback afterwards on how it went. And remember: Even if you don't end up choosing this school, this interview is a valuable experience and good training, because you will probably have many more interviews of this kind. Be it with other schools in the near future, or later in life when choosing a university or looking for a job.