

So, what is an interview?

What is an interview at UAL and how can you prepare for it? For us, interviews are an amazing opportunity to find out more about you and why you want to study with us. It's a chance to express your enthusiasm and talk about your aspirations. While we will ask you questions it's certainly not about tripping you up or putting you on the spot. Think less interrogation, more conversation.

Please note:

While these tips will help you with your undergraduate application, remember to also check the specific page for your chosen course to ensure you've considered the specific criteria as it varies from course to course.

Find out more at arts.ac.uk/courses

It works both ways

In the same way as it takes two to tango, there wouldn't be an interview if it wasn't for you. You're an important part of the process, so keep that in mind if you're feeling doubtful. An interview is an occasion for conversation, for us to help guide you towards the path that's best for you and your future career.

Be confident

We know that no matter how hard you try not to be nervous, it can be tough to stop your heart racing or avoid the dreaded sweaty palms. However, you can actually use your nerves to your advantage – they show you care and we see that, so try to transform that energy into enthusiasm. Just take your time, catch your breath, stay hydrated and don't overdo it with the caffeine.

Come with questions

Researching ahead of your interview is thoroughly advised. We want to see that you've not taken this decision lightly and you're serious about the direction you've chosen. Come along with some questions for us – we will aim to answer any query, big or small. We actually learn a lot from you during an interview and we wholeheartedly look forward to meeting inquisitive, determined students.

Be prepared

An interview at UAL can take a few different forms. You might have one in your country, over the phone or via a video call – you might even be asked to come to London in person. Whichever the format, ensure you're prepared. If you're applying to a course which requires a portfolio don't make it too heavy and don't bring any large objects you'll struggle to lift or present. Make sure you've checked the time and date so you're not rushed and can get into the right headspace.

Have a rehearsal

It doesn't hurt to have a practice before doing the real thing. Why not sit down with a friend or a family member and run through some potential scenarios? Have a think about some questions you think will be asked and have a go at answering them. If you have a portfolio-based interview it's particularly important to ensure you know it inside out and feel confident explaining it to others.

Don't over prepare

There actually is such a thing as over-preparing. Try to strike a balance when it comes to interview preparation. We suggest doing something you enjoy the night before your interview and hit pause on the cramming. Watch your favourite TV show, bake a cake or hang out with friends – let your mind unwind so you're fresh for the big day.