UL Careers Service
Mature Student Interviews

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https://www.ul.ie/cecd/students/careerservices

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Mature Student Interviews, UL

For detailed info on each degree programme: UL Admissions Office – Mature Student Applications

- https://www.ul.ie/academic-registry/prospective-students/applying-UL/mature-students

- Applicants for some courses may be selected for interviews, which will take place in April and May.

If you’re invited to a video interview



- Similar to a face-to-face interview
- MS Teams, or other video conferencing software
- Quiet, private, well-lit, and free from distractions.
- Ensure your internet connection is stable
- Check that your computer’s audio and camera are working
- Test the video conference platform in advance

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Video Interviews

- Check the position of your camera; your head and shoulders should be visible
- You should be looking at the camera straight on
- Ensure the lighting is correct and there are no shadows. Your background should be neutral
- Try to come across as natural; when listening, nod and smile to show you are engaged
- Practice



'Was the interview too early for you?'

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All interviews revolve around these basic areas

- Can you do the course? (Are you academically able for the course?)
- Will you do the course? (How motivated are you?)
- How will you fit in? (Do you understand the realities of being a full-time UL student?)

- Preparedness for third level and ability to cope with academic workload; prior education (Leaving Cert, QQI, Other qualifications or training, IT skills)

- Work and life experience (relevant, paid or voluntary)

- Evidence of interest (how can you prove your interest)

- General suitability (motivation, academic ability, a realistic understanding of the workload and time commitment)

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Preparing for common interview questions



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Tell me about yourself

Keep it brief (1 to 2 minutes)

- Education
- Life and Work experience
- Interests / competencies relating to the course
- Career objective



How would you answer these questions?

Practice answering these questions out loud with a friend or family member

- Why have you chosen this course? Was it for specific modules, subjects, or the university?
- Do you have any experience, hobbies, or past studies that will help you if you were accepted onto this programme?
- How have you prepared for your studies? How will you balance your personal responsibilities and study?
- Do you have any work or voluntary experience related to the programme?
- Which transferable skills (teamwork, communication, time management) from other areas of your life do you think you can bring to your studies? And how will you use them?
- What are your goals after the degree programme? How will this course help you achieve that?

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Your Answers

- Listen carefully, seek clarification
- Illustrate answers with **real examples and evidence**
- Keep answers specific and succinct
- Take time to respond
- Speak clearly, show enthusiasm
- Know what you want to say, and find the opportunity
- Be alert to interviewer's body language and be aware of your own



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Summary

- Review own skills and experience
  - Check application form/supporting statement
  - Consider your motivation and interest in the course
  - Emphasise your academic potential

- Research course/subject area
  - College prospectus, etc
  - Contacts- course directors, students, family, friends
  - Professional contacts working in the area you're interested in
  - Career paths you're interested in

  - Prepare any questions you might have
  - Practice



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