

## **Admissions Interview Policy (Taught Courses)**

### **1. Purpose and Context**

This policy provides guidance in relation to the interviewing of applicants to some courses within the university.

### **2. Scope**

This policy applies to all interviews conducted to assess the suitability of applicants to University of Huddersfield undergraduate and taught postgraduate courses, including courses based at partner institutions (e.g., PGCE courses) and Degree Apprenticeships and which result in a formal offer or reject decision on an application to study at the University. Informal meetings with university staff, where prospective applicants can discuss the University's courses, entry requirements and their suitability for selected programmes, are not considered interviews in the context of this policy.

### **3. Why do we interview?**

For the majority of courses, the University does not require applicants to be interviewed as part of its recruitment process.

In some cases, however, the University will interview applicants if it is felt that this is the best method of identifying potential for study, and/or where there is a relevant legal/regulatory requirement or guideline.

### **4. Selection criteria**

Appropriate selection criteria and assessment methods should be documented and agreed in advance of an interview process. Criteria and assessment methods used should be consistent with the University's Admissions Policy.

### **5. Scheduling**

Interviews should be scheduled as flexibly as possible to minimise the chance of applicants being unable to complete this part of the selection process. This should include, where possible, publishing in advance the likely interview dates, providing adequate notice when inviting an applicant to an interview and offering applicants an alternative interview date (if requested) where possible.

If the University cancels or postpones an interview, applicants should be offered a revised interview date.

A revised interview date may not be offered if the applicant fails to attend an interview without informing the University in advance.

The University may conduct telephone interviews or use online platforms (for example, Teams) if appropriate (for example for international applicants who may not be able to travel to the campus). In some cases, legal or regulatory requirements may mean this option is not available. Telephone or interviews using online platforms should follow the same principles and guidance as face-to-face interviews.

## **6. Travel and accommodation costs**

The University does not routinely reimburse the costs applicants may incur when travelling to an interview. If refunds are available this will be made clear when applicants are invited to interview.

## **7. Prior to the interview**

Applicants will be made aware in advance via the online course materials if a course requires an interview as part of the admission process, with details of the processes, criteria and nature of the interview assessment being made available. More detailed information should be supplied to those invited to an interview.

The interview process should be designed to be as inclusive as possible. Applicants should be invited to provide details prior to the interview of any disability, medical, or cultural requirements that should be taken into consideration to allow any reasonable adjustments to be made.

## **8. During the interview**

Procedures should be in place to verify the identity of the interviewee for both face-to-face, telephone and interviews conducted via online platforms.

Interviews may take place on an individual basis and/or within small groups. Applicants will not normally be accompanied into an interview by a third party unless such a request has been made in advance of the interview date and is considered as a reasonable adjustment. Requests for reasonable adjustments for applicants with specific requirements will be referred to the University's Wellbeing and Disability Service for advice and assessment.

Interviewers should not enter into discussion about the equivalence of qualifications with applicants (queries about the equivalence of such qualifications should be noted and then discussed with the Student Recruitment Team).

Interviewers should not refer to choices made to other Higher Education Institutions if the applicant has applied via UCAS as stated in UCAS Application and Recruitment Policy.

Interviewers should ensure that they follow agreed procedures for keeping a record of the interview and ensure that such records are handled in line with the University's Record Management Policy.

Interviewers should not make verbal offers of a place to applicants. Where an applicant has applied through UCAS the University will communicate its decision through UCAS as

stated in UCAS Application and Recruitment Policy. Where an applicant has applied directly to the University, a formal decision will be made and communicated directly to the applicant by the Student Recruitment Team, or the International Office as stated in the University Admissions Policy (Taught Courses)

## **9. After the interview**

Following the interview, the outcome should be communicated to the applicant as quickly as possible (normally within three weeks). If there is to be any delay in communicating a decision (for example if all interviews are conducted before decisions are communicated) the applicant should be notified. Communication with applicants about decisions/offers following an interview must be coordinated by the Student Recruitment Team and International Office.

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<b>REVISION HISTORY</b>			
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V2.1	March 2022	Minor changes	Student Recruitment Manager
V2.0	September 2020	Major review - minor changes	Student Recruitment Manager
V1.0	May 2017	First draft of new policy	ASIS Director