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YORK
ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY

Pre-CAS Interview Guide



Congratulations on receiving an offer to study at York St John University.

This guide is designed to support you as you complete your pre-CAS interview, an important step in your journey to studying with us at York St John University. You'll find information on the format, expectations, and key information relating to the pre-CAS interview.



What is a Pre-CAS interview?

You may be asked to complete a Pre-CAS interview or questionnaire through Enrolly CAS Shield as part of the application and admissions process. You will be asked to complete a short, self-recorded video interview which takes around 20-25 minutes, depending on the length of your responses.

It gives us the chance to get to know you better and understand your reasons for wanting to study in the UK and specifically at York St John. It will always be carried out in English, as this is the language you will be taught in whilst studying in the UK. This also helps us to understand your level of spoken English.

As part of the Student visa application, you could be selected by the UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) to attend a credibility interview. Your Pre-CAS interview is particularly important to support and prepare you for this.

How to access your Pre-CAS interview

After you receive an offer from us, you will be invited to use Enrolly CAS Shield, an online platform that supports you through the admissions, visa and arrivals process.

The interview section will be visible on the platform menu after you have confirmed your personal details and uploaded a copy of your passport

At the start, you will be asked to show your passport to the camera for an identity check. You will then be shown a series of questions on screen and given a set amount of time to respond to each one. You should record your answers individually using your device.

After your interview

You will usually be notified of the outcome of your Pre-CAS interview within 5-working days. You must successfully pass your Pre-CAS interview before we can issue an unconditional offer. Your CAS will only be issued if your Pre-CAS interview is successful, you have paid your CAS deposit, and all other conditions and CAS checks are complete.

Top tips for your Pre-CAS interview

- Ensure you are alone in a well-lit room, with minimal background noise. Find somewhere with a stable internet connection before attempting the interview.
- You need to provide personalised answers; do not memorise or read from a script.
- Students choose their university for many different reasons—whether it's the quality of the course, the campus location, or recommendations from friends and family. Share how you first heard about us, what made you decide to apply, and which factors mattered most in your choice.
- Remember to relate your answers back to your own personal career path and aspirations.
- If you state a fact, explain why this is relevant to you. (E.g. "The campus is located in London" – Why is the London location an attractive factor?)



What you should know

Why did you choose York St. John University?

Talk about any other universities you considered and what attracted you to them. Be ready to explain clearly why York St John University stood out as the right choice for you and what made it a better fit compared to your other options.

What other universities did you consider? Given the substantial investment, please be able to provide answers/comparisons with at least two other UK universities.

If this programme is only offered at YSJ, what other courses did you consider? Is there something you particularly liked about the facilities, location, or student experience that influenced your decision?

Why have you chosen to study in the UK?

You may be asked to explain your reasons for studying in the UK versus other popular study destinations, particularly if there are more affordable options in your home country or region. To learn more about the benefits of UK study, check out our Useful Resources (back page)

Why did you select this course? What modules will you study?

A genuine student is expected to know most of their course modules and detailed information about the learning outcomes. You can find information about your course on your [course page](#) or in the [programme specifications](#) page.

What are your future career plans?

Be clear about your future goals and how your course at York St John University will support them, considering the skills and knowledge you'll gain.

Plans should be realistic and demonstrate research into possible career paths. When returning to your home country, how will your qualification be beneficial? If you're considering working in the UK, what are the relevant opportunities and visa requirements?



How will you fund your studies and living costs?

You should be able to clearly explain how you will pay for both your tuition fees and day-to-day living expenses while studying at York St John University. This might include personal savings, support from family, scholarships, or sponsorship.

Be prepared to give details about where your funds are coming from the [UKVI minimum requirements](#) for living costs in your city of study.

It is important to show that you have planned your finances carefully and can support yourself throughout your time as a student.

Where do you plan to live during your studies?

You should be prepared to explain your accommodation plans while studying at York St John University. This could include university-managed accommodation or private housing in the local area.

Be ready to outline the type of accommodation you intend to stay in and how you will travel to campus. Even if you are in the process of finding accommodation; be prepared to talk about the research you have done so far.

Which nearby towns or cities are you considering? How far is the commute campus and what are the transportation costs involved?

Use Trainline or Transport for London check out our Useful Resources (on the back page) to do your own research.

Prior study in the UK

If you have previously studied in the UK, think about how the new course you have applied for relates to previous studies and how it might build on your previous learning.

How does the new course fit into your career plans? What gaps in knowledge is it addressing?



Useful Resources

To learn more about life in the UK and as a York St. John student before your pre-CAS interview, access the relevant resources below:

About York St. John:

www.yorksja.ac.uk/about

Accommodation - London Campus:

www.yorksja.ac.uk/london-campus/welcome/before-you-start-at-our-london-campus

Accommodation - York Campus:

www.yorksja.ac.uk/study/accommodation

British Council – Benefits of UK Study:

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/study-work-abroad/in-uk>

Finance – Tuition Fees:

www.yorksja.ac.uk/international/funding-scholarships-and-paying-tuition-fees

Gov UK - Graduate visa requirements and restrictions:

www.gov.uk/graduate-visa

Gov UK - Student Visa requirements and restrictions:

www.gov.uk/student-visa

UKCISA

www.ukcisa.org.uk/student-advice/visas-and-immigration

York St. John Courses:

www.yorksja.ac.uk/courses

York St. John Programme Specifications:

www.yorksja.ac.uk/programme-specifications

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