

## **Introduction**

The course you have applied for is offered in the School of Science & Engineering. Following common practice across the university sector, we publish typical course entry requirements to help you decide if you might be eligible for the course that you are interested in studying. However, we take the view that you are an individual with your very own individual circumstances and challenges that you have had to face in life. To enable us to look beyond academic qualifications and grade attainment in selecting students who have the potential to succeed on their chosen course, we invite selected applicants to attend an interview. Your interview will help our admissions staff tailor your offer to your own particular background and circumstances, taking into consideration your individual strengths and potential to succeed. During your visit we will provide you with information on all courses related to your subject, and the possible progression routes for you to achieve your objectives.

When the time comes to select your firm and insurance choices, it is important that you are in a position to make an informed decision. One that will help you gain a place on the course that is right for you and at a university where you will feel happy and content. We'll do everything we can to help you arrive at the right decision. We do realise that sometimes the volume of information provided can be quite daunting, so you may find it helpful to have someone close to you, like a relative or friend, to discuss your options. For this purpose we encourage you to bring with you up to two guests who might be your parents, guardians, partner or friends. Your guests can participate in talks and tours, but not normally the interview session. At the end of the day you and your guests will be able to share their thoughts and opinions with you, hopefully helping you make the best choices.

## **Selection process**

Your application is initially assessed by an admissions tutor and a provisional decision is based on the information you have provided on your application form.

If you live in the UK and pass the first selection process you then receive an invitation to attend an interview. You will receive your formal offer of a place, and any conditions attached, through UCAS shortly after your interview.

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By attending and performing well in an interview you can improve your chances of receiving an offer that is tailored to your individual background and potential. A successful interview can also improve your chances of being accepted on your chosen course if your results do not quite match the conditions specified in the formal offer.

If you have used more than one of your five UCAS choices for a course at Teesside University then normally a single interview will cover all your selected courses, as long as these are offered within the same School, i.e. the School of Science & Engineering. If you receive more than one invitation from Teesside University because you have applied for more than one course in the same School, then please respond to the first invitation and decline the rest.

We do not invite applicants who do not pass the first selection stage. This is done because we do not wish to raise the expectations of applicants and for applicants, to incur costs for visiting the university, if it is absolutely clear that an offer cannot be made. Unsuccessful applicants declined without interview may contact us for feedback on their application and we will explain why their application was unsuccessful.

If you have received an invitation to an interview session then that means that your application has passed the first selection stage – well done!

### **Your interview**

The purpose of the interview is to enable us to learn more about you, as an individual, as well as to provide you with an opportunity to ask us any questions you may have about studying at university, our courses and career prospects.

Your interview will assist admissions staff in deciding the details of the offer to be made, ensuring it is tailored to your individual strengths and background. It will assist you in making an informed decision on which type of course best suits your aspirations and future career plans.

During your interview you should aim to:

- give a fuller account of yourself, including hobbies and skills relevant to the course which you wish to study
- demonstrate your communication skills
- inform the admissions staff of any information which might have been omitted from your application form

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- seek answers to the questions you might have on the application process, funding, courses available and career prospects.

During your interview your interviewer will be focussing on your:

- communication skills
- enthusiasm for your chosen field of study
- commitment to your chosen field of study
- determination to succeed
- potential to benefit from our employability-enhancing curriculum
- potential to succeed on your course
- potential to become a good ambassador for Teesside University and the School of Science & Engineering

The outcome of your interview is important and will assist the admissions staff to:

- confirm that your selected course matches your background and interests;
- decide the details of the formal offer to be made;
- decide how flexible we can be if your future examination results do not quite match the conditions specified in your formal offer;

### **Interview structure**

Whilst being formal and professional, your interview is intended to be a friendly and pleasant interaction between you and your interviewer.

Your interview will be semi-structured and partly prescribed, with a significant part of the interview directed by your interviewer based on your own background, interests and qualifications. You will have the opportunity to ask questions during the interview.

### **Dress code**

We do not prescribe a dress code. Some applicants arrive smartly dressed in suit and tie while others arrive in smart casual wear. We ask that you use your own judgement as to what clothes to wear.

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**Finally** – most applicants leave at the end of the day feeling much better informed, pleased with the interview and its outcomes, and much better placed to decide what and where to study. Good luck in your interview!

**Here is a selection of comments from previous years' applicants who attended an interview:**

*"I have found today to be very well organised. The staff have been friendly and informative. The tour was informal and interesting. I think the Crime Scene House is a great asset to the course."* BSc Crime Scene Science

*"Very informative. Gave me a good idea of what I would be doing if I chose this University. Very kind and helpful staff."* MEng Mechanical Engineering

*"I found the campus tour and subject talks enlightening. It gave an excellent overview of student life."* BEng Civil Engineering

*"Nothing was missing. Event was well planned. It was good to see a real University environment and to see the plant design rooms."* BEng Chemical Engineering

*"It has been a brilliant day! I learnt much more about my course and the 100% in work or further study has helped me decide I definitely want to study at Teesside."* MEng Instrumentation and Control Engineering

*"I enjoyed the day. It gave me the assurance that I want to attend this course."* BSc Forensic Science.

*"Today was a great day. The staff were very kind and hospitable."* BSc Environmental Science.

*"It's been a good day. Practical was a good exercise, and everyone was made to feel comfortable."* MEng Aerospace Engineering.