

Interviews at University of Malaya

The following information will only serve as a general guide for candidates seeking to apply for entry into courses at the University of Malaya. The requirement for Interview has been introduced to all academic courses for intake beginning in Academic Calendar 2013/2014 and will apply to both the Foundation programs and the Bachelor Degree programs. More details on the new intake requirements can be found at the following website:

www.um.edu.my > Undergraduate > Entry Requirement

These pages also give advice on how you can prepare for your interview, so that you will be able to do your best. You may also refer to relevant online materials available on the Internet to assist with your interview preparation.

If you have any further general questions about your interview, please contact the Academic Division University of Malaya. Their contact details are given below:

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Applying to University of Malaya

For details of how to apply to courses in University of Malaya, please see our 'How to apply' pages. Applications are made through UPU and must be submitted by March/April each year. Please note that several subjects require you to take an admissions test as part of your application and/or to submit written work. To make sure that you can prepare in good time and register for any tests that may be required, please do check the details for your subject course pages.

Shortlisting

Many excellent candidates apply each year, and most of them have a good personal statement, a glowing reference and top predicted grades. With so many applications for each place at University of Malaya, it is not possible for us to interview all the candidates.

For some courses, over 90% of candidates are shortlisted. In other subjects, particularly those that are most heavily oversubscribed, a smaller proportion of candidates will be shortlisted and they will be invited to attend the interview. If you are invited for interview, you may start your preparation early to ensure the best chance of success for your admission.

Before your interview

Have I been selected?

For most of the candidates, due to the short time frame that we have you may only be getting your letter or online update approximately between 1-2 weeks before the interview date, indicating whether or not you have been invited for interview. The information will also be updated and accessible in your online application portal and if you have been selected for interview, the update will include address, date and specific details of your interview. The interview will be conducted on:

(1) Pre-University Programmes
19th - 21th April 2014 (Saturday – Monday)

(2) First Degree Programmes
23th -29th May 2014 (Friday – Thursday)

How can I prepare?

We recommend that you:

- think about some basic questions that may be asked at the beginning of an interview and how you might answer them. For example, interviewers may ask why you have chosen this particular subject, and why you want to study it at University of Malaya. Whether the interviewers ask you these questions or not, it is still a good idea to bear in mind your genuine motivation for studying your course.
- read widely around your chosen subject, including newspaper articles, websites, journals, magazines and other publications that relate to your subject.
- take a critical view of ideas and arguments that you encounter at school or college, or in the media – think about all sides of any debate.
- be prepared to show some background knowledge of the subject, if you are applying for a course not normally studied at school or college, such as Medicine, Law, Engineering or Accountancy. However, you will not be expected to have a detailed understanding of specific or technical topics. For example, you may be asked what role your subject plays in society. For these subjects, the topics for discussion are likely to allow you to demonstrate the skills needed by an undergraduate: the ability to use information to construct your own opinions, the willingness and ability to analyse and, in the sciences and mathematics, facility in problem-solving.
- organise a practice interview for yourself. This could be with a teacher or someone else who is familiar with your subject, but preferably not someone you know very well. This will help you to get some more experience of talking about yourself and your work in an unfamiliar environment.
- remind yourself of the selection criteria by referring to the entry requirement for your chosen subject.

Finding your way

For details of how to get to the Interview Centres and how to find your designated Centre please refer to the information sent by the Academic Division or you may refer to the website for any update. Interview sessions will be done simultaneously in 6 (six) separate location throughout the country on a specific date. Please ensure that you are able to arrive early for your interview so that the whole process can be administered efficiently.

(1) University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur	-	Central Zone
(2) Hotel Crystal Crown, Johor Bharu, Johor	-	Southern Zone
(3) Akademi Pengajian Islam, Nilam Puri, Kelantan	-	East Zone
(4) Hotel Regency, Alor Setar, Kedah	-	Northern Zone
(5) Hotel Grand Borneo, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah	-	Sabah Zone
(6) Hotel Merdeka Palace, Kuching, Sarawak	-	Sarawak Zone

What to wear and what to bring

Please wear whatever clothes you feel comfortable in. Most interviewers will dress formally, and it is necessary for you to do so too. We recommend that you bring copies of your academic transcripts, relevant certificates and/or any other documents in support of your application for admission into the University.

You are not expected to refer to any specific revision materials, portfolio or documents unless required by the Faculty during the interview and we discourage candidates from bringing expensive personal belongings during the interview including jewellery, smartphones, laptops etc as we will not be responsible for its safekeeping during your interview.

At your interview

Who will interview you

Interviews will be conducted by trained interviewers representing the Faculty and the Academic Division and may consists of individuals who are familiar in an aspect of the degree course for which you are applying. You may be interviewed by two or more interviewers at a time. If you are applying for a Foundation courses, you should expect to be interviewed in group of five candidates by a panel of not less than two interviewers.

Purpose of the interview

The interview is designed to assess your academic abilities and, most importantly, your academic potential. It provides the interviewers with a valuable opportunity to assess your potential beyond your academic qualification. The interview allows them to evaluate your understanding of and aptitude for your subject, and to give you the opportunity to explain why you are committed to studying it.

What to expect in the interview or interviews

Interviewers want you to be yourself in the interview, and to allow you to demonstrate your skills and abilities. They will probably ask you a few simple questions to begin with to help you feel at ease.

For example, the Interviewer may ask the student about why he/she is interested in applying for the course that he/she has chosen in the University of Malaya.

They will then move on to questions about your subject, and questions that will help them to assess your suitability to study at the University of Malaya. Depending on what is relevant for the course you are applying for, you may be given questions or scenario for you to give inputs based on your knowledge and understanding on the subject matter.

You may be asked factual questions, especially in science subjects. The basis for this discussion will probably include the subjects you are currently studying at school or college; for courses that require written work, this may also be used. However, you may also be offered opportunities to show whether you have read around the subject and to demonstrate your interest beyond your school or current syllabus.

What Interviewers are looking for?

Interviewers will be looking for your self-motivation and enthusiasm for your subject. They are looking for evidence that you are thinking independently, that you are willing to engage with new ideas, beyond the scope of your school or college syllabus, and that you are committed to your subject.

Your questions

At the end of the interview you may be given the chance to ask your own questions. This is not the place for detailed discussion of the course syllabus or other details, as you should have explored the course information before you applied. However, it is the time to ask about any points about your own academic work, or perhaps about one of the questions you were asked in the interview.

Thank you for choosing the University of Malaya as your first choice. We wish you every success in your application and that these pages have been of some help in preparing you for the interview.