

Virtual Interviews at Cambridge

Information for Candidates

Your interview/s this year will take place ‘virtually’. The College you have applied to will provide you with information about the technology that will be needed in order to attend the interview. Below are some useful further pieces of information that you should read carefully before your interview/s.

- ⇒ You will not be asked to subscribe to any platforms as part of this process. However, you may be asked to download a free ‘app’ relating to the chosen platform, or invited to join your interview via a weblink. The College you have applied to will advise you of this.
- ⇒ Please make a careful note of any weblinks/passcodes before your interview/s and ensure that you download any apps well before the interview/s, so that you can check that they work.
- ⇒ For the interview/s, please ensure that you have permitted camera and microphone functions on the device you are using, and ensure that you are clearly visible on screen.
- ⇒ You should also ensure that the device/s you are using for your interview/s are fully charged and that you have access to a socket/s to charge your device/s during the interviews if necessary – please remember that video calls use a lot of power and batteries can run low very quickly.
- ⇒ There must not be anyone else in the interview room with you, or online (e.g. family member, other students), except for your interviewer/s and in some cases personnel from the College you have applied to, who may be involved in setting up your interview or observing it in case of technical problems, for example.
- ⇒ If you have other technology in the room, please ensure it is turned to silent and flight mode, to maximise connectivity and to minimise the chance of interruptions.
- ⇒ You are not permitted to film or record your interview in any way.
- ⇒ Once you have either clicked on your weblink or entered your passcode, you should wait to be admitted to your interview, following any on-screen prompts. If you have not been admitted to your interview more than five minutes after the scheduled start time, try logging on again, and if this fails, telephone the College Admissions Office for further guidance. If you are being held in a waiting room at this time, remain in the waiting room and ring the College Admissions Office.
- ⇒ If you are being interviewed in a technical subject where the interview/s may involve ‘workings’, your interviewer/s may use a virtual whiteboard. They will enable this feature in the interview. There are several ways to ‘write’ to the whiteboard, and these may involve a mouse, or a stylus pen, or a keyboard, for example. For some touchscreen devices, you may be able to use your finger. If none of these is possible, your interviewer/s will work to provide an alternative way of working through the interview questions. Please note that we are prepared for assessment via a variety of formats, and you will not be disadvantaged by the equipment that is available to you.

- ⇒ If, during the interview, technical problems arise (for example, the screen freezes, or your connection ‘drops off’), in the first instance you should follow instructions from your interviewer/s if you can hear them. If you lose all connectivity, please disconnect and reconnect using the weblink/passcodes provided to you. Try this twice more, and if you are again unable to re-connect, please contact the Admissions Office on the telephone number/s provided, or follow any additional instructions given to you by the Admissions Office. The interviewer/s will note disruptions to your interview/s and you will not be disadvantaged by these. Please also see the below the following bullet point.
- ⇒ In the event that your interview/s are subject to substantial technical problems that mean that your interviewer/s do not feel they have enough information to make a judgement on the interview/s, the College Admissions Office will arrange to re-schedule your interview/s. You will be advised of this if it is the case.