

Information about the Natural Sciences Admissions Interview: 2019/2020 Entry

A sample schedule for the interview day is shown below. You will receive notification of your interview time prior to your visit.

Please make sure you arrive in good time so that you can be relaxed for the interview. We suggest arriving at least 20 minutes before your interview time. Dress code for the interview is 'casual'.

On arrival make your way to the Natural Sciences Reception Room where you will be greeted by members of the Natural Sciences Team and current Natural Sciences students. The Reception Room will be open from 12:00 and refreshments will be available.

A member of staff will be present in the Natural Sciences Reception Room throughout the afternoon and will be available to answer questions about the Natural Sciences degree programme.

12:00 – 16:15	<p>Natural Sciences Reception Room opens, with refreshments.</p> <p>A member staff from the Natural Sciences team will be available throughout the afternoon as host and to answer questions.</p> <p>Optional campus tours will be arranged throughout the afternoon. There will be separate tours for interviewees and for accompanying guests.</p>	
12:30 – 16:00	INTERVIEWS	
	12:30 – 13:00	Interview Slot 1
	13:00 – 13:30	Interview Slot 2
	13:30 – 14:00	Interview Slot 3
	break	
	14:30 – 15:00	Interview Slot 4
	15:00 – 15:30	Interview Slot 5
	15:30 – 16:00	Interview Slot 6
16:15	End	

Information about the Natural Sciences Aptitude Interview

The aim of the interview is to help you and us assess your aptitude for the Southampton Natural Sciences degree programme. It is **not** a technical interview, though at times it may touch on technical matters.

The interviewer will assess how you:

- *engage with unexpected questions or viewpoints (envisioning aptitude)*
- *think critically and creatively (thinking aptitude)*
- *tackle complex questions (problem-solving aptitude)*
- *plan and deliver a short presentation without audio-visual aids (planning and communication aptitude)*

You will be interviewed by a member of staff who has extensive experience of undergraduate teaching and of working across scientific disciplines.

The interview will last between 25 and 30 minutes. It will consist of three parts.

Part I: You are asked to give the interviewer a 10 minute oral presentation (without the use of audiovisual aids such as slides or PowerPoint) on ONE of the following five topics (A-E):

Design an experiment to test the statement that:

- A. University students are lazy
- B. Humanities degrees are easier than science or engineering degrees
- C. We are smarter today than people living during the stone age
- D. Human morality is not learned but a fundamental characteristic of humans

- or -

- E. Teach the interviewer something amazing in 10 minutes

Part 2: Please come prepared to discuss one of the following topics:

- i. Can machines make decisions?
- ii. Is a baby capable of love?
- iii. Is extinction of a species a bad thing?
- iv. Do you think that creatures like the Loch Ness monster and Big Foot exist?
- v. Is there such a thing as the "value of a human life"?

The Interviewer will inform you on the day which of the five topics (i – v) you will be expected to discuss. You should be prepared for a discussion that lasts 7-8 minutes.

Part 3: The Interviewer will ask you questions about your broader experience. This part will last 8-10 minutes.

Following your interview you are free to leave, return to the Reception Room to ask questions to staff and students, or you may wish to join one of the campus tours.