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YORK
ST JOHN
UNIVERSITY

LONDON

LONDON CAMPUS

PRE-CAS INTERVIEW GUIDE

INTERNATIONAL

We are so excited that you want to join us here at York St John and we can't wait to welcome you to our university and global family. We look forward to bringing you an international, personalised and transformative study experience, but before we do we want to support and guide you through the next step of your application, the Pre-CAS interview.



PRE CAS INTERVIEW

What is a Pre-CAS interview?

The interview is the final step in your application process to York St John University. It gives us the chance to get to know you better and understand your reasons for wanting to study here in the UK and specifically at YSJ. It will always be carried out in English, as this is the language you will be studying in whilst at YSJ, so it helps us to understand your level of speaking English (which needs to be equivalent to or higher than the level B2 in the CEFR framework).

During your interview, which is normally carried out over Zoom, you will be talking to someone from our Visa and Compliance Team or the International Programmes Team and it can last between 20 to 40 minutes. There is a possibility that you may be selected by UKVI to attend a credibility interview as part of your Student route visa application and your Pre-CAS interview with us is particularly important to support you and prepare you for this.

What questions could be asked in the interview?

We will also ask you about what attracted you to study your chosen course at York St John University as opposed to other institutions offering the same course in the UK and abroad. Going into more detail, we will want to understand how this course relates to your previous and current studies or work experience and how completing this course will develop your career progression.

It is likely we will also ask you questions about your background, study plans, career and finances. This is all important information to help us really understand your reasonings for wanting to join us at YSJ. It is also important to know how you plan to finance the course fees, living costs and accommodation and you will be asked to outline the total costs involved in studying here.

JARGON BUSTER.

There are quite a few English and academic words or terminology that might be used in the interview that you may not have heard before. The below list should help you better understand some of them.

CAS

Confirmation of Acceptance for studies (CAS). It is a unique letter/number code which will enable you to apply for a student visa.

COURSE

The programme of studies a student takes to gain a qualification, this is also known as a major. A course is divided into shorter modules which cover specific areas of a wider topic.

CONDITIONAL OFFER

It means the university has accepted you on to its course, subject to you meeting the entry requirements of the offer. This usually means you'll need to obtain certain grades in your current studies or achieve a minimum number of UCAS points.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Entry requirements for university are formal criteria you must meet in order to be considered for a degree course you're applying to. Universities and colleges set their own entry requirements for higher education courses, and these vary widely depending on the subject, the specific course and the course provider. They set the entry requirements for each course to ensure you have the right skills and knowledge to successfully complete the course.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Education given beyond the secondary level, including undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. It gives students the chance to study a subject they are interested in.



OFFER

When a university or college has reviewed an application they make one of two decisions: offer a place, or make the application unsuccessful.

POSTGRADUATE

A postgraduate degree is a further qualification some people choose to move onto after they have finished their undergraduate degree, this is usually a Masters or PHD.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are a type of funding support offered by the University to assist students with their tuition fee cost. We offer a range of funding opportunities available [here](#).

STUDENT VISA

You will need a student visa to study in the UK. Under the new student visa (formerly known as Tier 4), the University becomes your sponsor in the UK and enables you to study here.

UNCONDITIONAL OFFER

An offer that is offered to a student regardless of any other circumstances or academic results.

UNDERGRADUATE

An undergraduate degree is what applicants will go on to straight from school.

TOP TIPS FOR PRE-CAS INTERVIEW

We know it can be daunting to speak to someone about why you want to study with us, after all, it is an important and exciting decision you are taking to study overseas. We want to support you as much as we can and make the process as easy as possible, so here are some of our top tips to help you best prepare for your interview:

- Relax, just answer all the questions honestly, making sure that your answers are personal and demonstrate you have done sufficient research. Don't give us standard or generic answers, we want to hear from YOU! However, be as precise and detailed as you can to explain yourself fully and accurately.
- It is always helpful if you have any facts and figures to support your answers (you might be asked to provide the sources of these) as these will help us know the level of research you have taken into studying in the UK and specifically at YSJ.
- If you have any previous visa/s refusals please send these to visa@yorks.ac.uk before your interview to avoid any issues or delays in process.
- Please let us know in advance if you have technical issues or can't access Zoom.
- Remember, no-one is trying to catch you out, we are just trying to find out more about you and your reasons for studying with us. If you do not understand a question, simply ask us to repeat it and remember you need to speak in English at all times.



UNIVERSITY SUMMARY

We thought it would be useful to give you a quick round up of YSJ to help you with some of the questions we may ask during your interview. Please do visit our [website](#) or look at our [Undergraduate](#) or [Postgraduate](#) prospectus for further information. Please also visit our dedicated [London pages](#).

ACCOMMODATION

London has many student accommodation options throughout the city. These often come with student specific benefits. Many student accommodation sites host networking events where you meet other students attending different universities. Private accommodation is also an option. It can be the cheapest option although costs can vary depending on location and accommodation type. We recommend taking into consideration your commute and the location of our campus. You can find out more on our [Study in London pages](#).



FEES AND FUNDING

Tuition fees

Tuition fees vary depending on study level, programme and duration. Details of tuition fees for all our courses can be found on the [individual course pages](#) of our website.

Funding

We accept a variety of [funding options](#) such as the Norwegian state loans, German DAAD funding and government sponsored students from a range of countries. US students are entitled to [federal loans](#). For further information speak to our funding advice team at: fundingadvice@yorksj.ac.uk or call +44 (0)1904 876939.

Deposits

Most international students need to pay a deposit. The amount is 50% of the first year's tuition fees. This amount will be shown on your unconditional offer e-mail. You need to pay the deposit before your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) can be given for your visa application. The deposit can be paid either through the Western Union Payment System, York St John University payment system or by a bank transfer. Information on how to complete these payments can be found on our [website](#).

COST OF LIVING

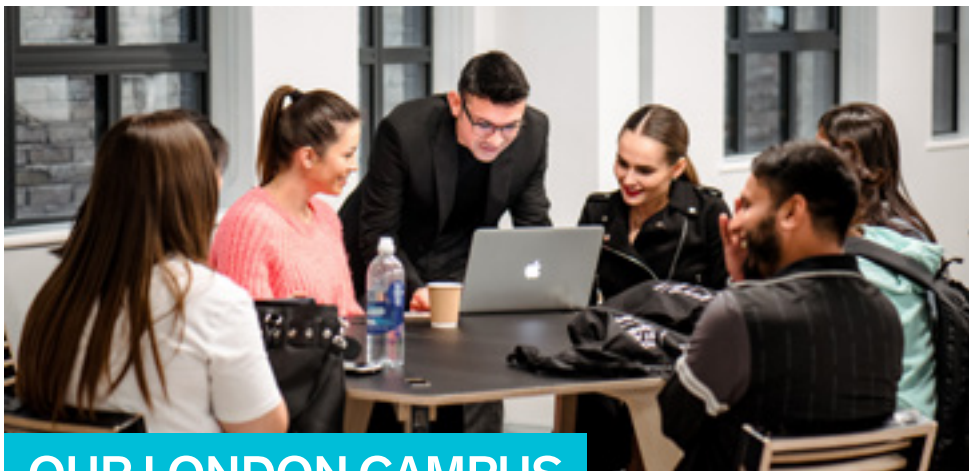
UK Visa and Immigration (UKVI) requires you to have a budget of at least £1,265 per month to study in London (in addition to your tuition fees). Whilst London is more expensive than many of the UK's other cities there are still many ways to save money and enjoy the best that the wonderful city has to offer. London has thousands of free events, galleries, buildings, museums, parks and more for you to enjoy, visit: visitlondon.com for more information. You can also sign-up for discounted student travel and save 30% on London travelcards. Visit: tfl.gov.uk for details. You are also entitled to a student discount card, called the [TOTUM](#) card, which offers discounts all around the UK.

York St John University has invested in an online money education tool called Blackbullion. You can prepare for the financial reality of university life by completing the International Student pathway section. Register at blackbullion.com.

93%

of students have value for money satisfaction

(International Student Barometer 2019/20)



OUR LONDON CAMPUS

The Glasshouse, our London Campus, is at the heart of the capital's business enterprise and creative centre. With excellent transport links and within moments of the world-famous Barbican Centre, our new campus is based at the very heart of London's creative, technology and business creation ecosystems.

The campus is home to a suite of contemporary courses designed to nurture the creative and business pioneers of the future. A base in London means we can work with even more of the biggest brands in the world, accessing opportunities and experts that inspire. Our campus is based

within a few minutes of major offices for Google, Amazon, London Calling Alexander McQueen, Virgin Active and over 100 other leading companies.

We have created a dynamic, contemporary and exciting home for learning in London that will take you to the very heart of current business thinking. Developed collaboratively with the support of industry experts, our portfolio of courses is fresh, distinctive, cutting edge and career relevant.

You can find out more on the London pages of our [website](#).

94%

of students have
overall satisfaction
(International Student Barometer
2019/20)

York St John
University is top
ten in the UK for
teaching quality
(Times and Sunday times Good
University Guide 2020)



York St John is proud to be global in outlook yet local in character and we are certainly a home from home for all our students. We look forward to speaking to you at your interview and welcoming you to our university.

IMMIGRATION HISTORY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name:

Student ID:

1. Have you ever previously studied in the UK? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, please fill out the below with details of ALL of the courses you have undertaken in the UK:

Institution	Course title	Course start date	Course end date	NQF Level	Grade

2. Have you ever received a visa refusal from the UK? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, please state the reasons for the refusal below:

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Please also email us copies of ALL refusals received.

3. Have you ever received a visa refusal for any other country? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, please state the reasons for the refusal below:

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Please also email us copies of ALL refusals received.

4. Do you have any pending UK visa applications or appeals? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, please provide more details:

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5. Have you ever overstayed on any visa? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Declaration

I hereby declare that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that I have declared anything that could affect my immigration application to the UK.

Sign:

Date:

.....

USEFUL CONTACTS:

For visa and Pre-CAS interview questions,
please contact

visa@yorks.ac.uk

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