Pre-Mock Interview Questionnaire

Master’s in Social Work

Type in the shaded boxes. Save your completed PDF before returning it to your WSA counsellor.

Full name	
University	
Full course title	
Course start date	
Interview date, if known	
Interview time and time zone, if known	
Interview purpose	

Purpose of the interview

The university will explore your motivation for social work, relevant experience, professional values and readiness for postgraduate study and placements. Confirm the purpose with your counsellor from the invitation. If credibility or scholarship assessment is also included, use PMIQ 08 or 06 alongside this course questionnaire.

How to prepare

Before your mock, use the podcasts below. Review your invitation, official course and placement information, CV and submitted personal statement. Record the sources you use. Prepare short notes and genuine examples in your own words. Practise unexpected follow up questions without reading. Listen, answer the question directly and ask for clarification if needed. Use a clear point and example, then stop. Look towards the camera naturally and use a respectful tone and body language. Protect other people’s identities. Actual interview questions may differ.

Interview questions

01. Tell us briefly about your education and relevant experience. Explain your actual responsibilities and how these have prepared you for postgraduate social work study.

02. Why do you want to become a social worker, and why now? Describe an experience that shaped your decision and what you learnt about the profession. Explain why this course fits your needs.

03. Why did you choose this university and course? Give one specific strength of the department and one feature of the course, such as a module or placement opportunity. Explain how these support your goals and name the university sources you used.

04. Explain the course structure and two modules that interest you. What would you learn, how would you be assessed and how would you apply the learning? What have you checked about placements?

05. What do social workers do? Explain how they work with people, families and other professionals, and the limits of their role. Give an example of a challenge they may face.

06. Describe a time you supported someone. What did they want, what did you do and what happened? Explain your own contribution, what you learnt and what you would do differently.

07. A person says they have experienced discrimination but does not want formal intervention. How would you listen, explore their needs and wishes, consider safety and discuss suitable support? Explain equality, diversity, inclusion and oppression in this example. Why might statutory social work intervention not be the appropriate response in every case?

08. What does safeguarding mean? If a child or adult might be at risk of harm, what would you do first, who would you consult and how would you explain your actions? Recognise the limits of your role.

09. Why are confidentiality and professional boundaries important? Explain when a safety concern may need to be shared, with whom and why. What would you record?

10. What social issue interests you? Explain its effect on people, how their circumstances and wishes may differ, and how social workers and other services might help. Identify a limitation or challenge.

11. Describe a difficult conversation or disagreement. How did you listen and respond? What effect might your words, tone or body language have had? Reflect on feedback and explain what you would change.

12. You have an assignment deadline, a placement task and a new concern about someone's safety. How would you assess urgency, prioritise, communicate and seek supervision? Explain how you would also manage stress and protect time for study.

13. What social work role or area of practice interests you after graduation? Explain its responsibilities, the steps needed to enter it and how two course skills or placement experiences would prepare you.

14. What are your tuition fees and confirmed discounts? Explain who will fund the balance, living costs, accommodation and placement travel, and the evidence available. Distinguish confirmed arrangements from estimates.

15. What two questions would you like to ask about teaching, placements, assessment, supervision or student support?

16. Where is your university ranked, if listed? Give the source and year. You may also mention a relevant subject or course ranking. Explain one limitation and how the ranking informed your choice alongside course fit.

17. Which universities in your home country did you genuinely consider for comparable study? Name the institutions and programmes, explain the similarities and differences, and why your chosen university better meets your academic or career objectives.

18. How would you manage your physical health, mental wellbeing and study workload while studying? Describe practical habits, sources of support and what you would do if you needed help. You do not need to disclose private medical information.

19. Will international travel and migration increase or decrease in future? Discuss how changing mobility could affect social work services and the people they support.

20. A panel asks a broad question unrelated to social work. How would you structure a short, balanced answer and acknowledge what you do not know?

Ranking references (check the latest edition and whether your institution is listed):
QS World University Rankings: https://www.topuniversities.com/world-university-rankings
Times Higher Education World University Rankings:
https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings

Use genuine examples from study, work or volunteering. Distinguish your contribution from the team's and protect identities. Expect follow up questions such as "Why?", "Give an example" and "Explain that more simply". Tell your counsellor about any discrepancy in your documents before the interview.

Podcasts to use before your mock interview

Open each link in the WSA Student Support Library. Listen to the podcast and read or download its summary before completing this questionnaire. Make a note of anything you would like to discuss with your counsellor.

WSA 026 UK University Credibility Interview

https://www.worldstudentadvisors.com/student-support-library/uk-university-credibility-interview

Use the general advice on clear answers alongside your course interview instructions. Prepare separately for social work scenarios, professional values and any group tasks.

WSA 010 Personal Statement Guide

https://www.worldstudentadvisors.com/student-support-library/personal-statement-guide

Review your submitted statement so you can explain your motivation for social work, relevant experience and career plans using genuine examples.

WSA 002 Cost of Studying Abroad

https://www.worldstudentadvisors.com/student-support-library/cost-of-studying-abroad

Prepare your tuition fee and living cost figures, including accommodation and travel to placements, and explain how they will be funded.

After listening, check that you can explain your course choice, social work values, relevant experience, career plans and practical arrangements without reading a script.