



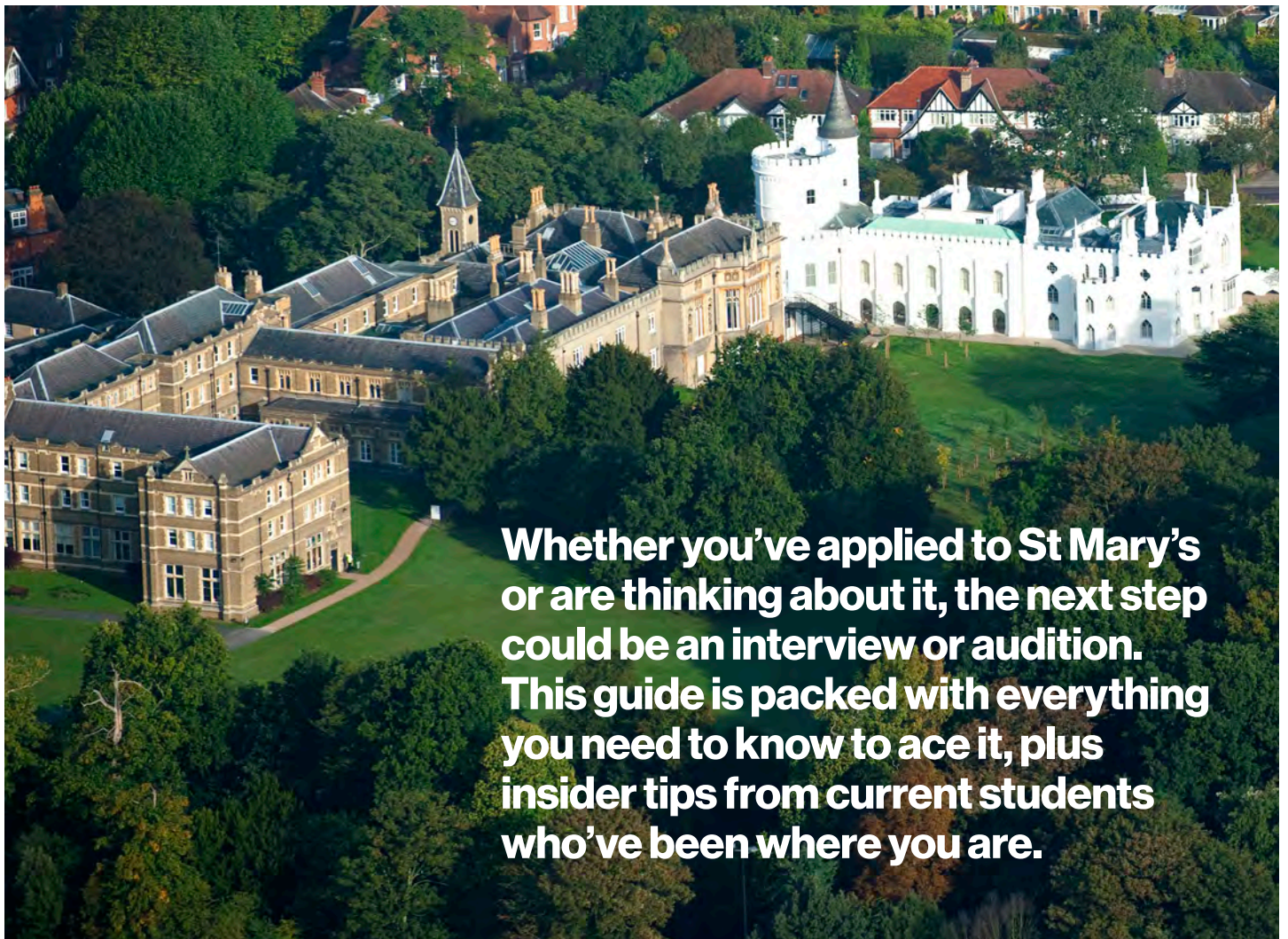
St Mary's
University
Twickenham
London

Preparing for your St Mary's interview or audition

Undergraduate Guide

**Everything you need to know
to ace your interview or
audition at St Mary's**





Whether you've applied to St Mary's or are thinking about it, the next step could be an interview or audition. This guide is packed with everything you need to know to ace it, plus insider tips from current students who've been where you are.

At St Mary's you will be asked to audition or interview for the following undergraduate courses.

BA Acting (Hons)
BA Creative Production (Hons)
BSc Physiotherapy (Hons)
BA Primary Education (Hons) with QTS (including work-based route and Early Years)

Why do we ask you to audition or interview?

We want to get to know you better – your potential, skills, and personality. An audition or interview helps us see beyond your application and personal statement. Think of it as your time to shine and show us what makes you unique!

How do I book my audition or interview?

You'll receive an invitation via email or UCAS Track, and you will be asked to log into the student applicant portal. You'll be sent instructions on what to do next, and details

about your username and password. Once you've logged in you can accept, decline or reschedule your audition or interview, if needed. Keep in mind that we process a lot of applications, so if you can't make the suggested date or time, reach out to us as soon as you can.

What should I expect on the day?

This will vary slightly for each course. In this guide, we've detailed the expectations for the different interviews and auditions at St Mary's.

The important thing to remember is that the audition or interview process at St Mary's is not only about showcasing your skills and talents but also serves as an opportunity for you to learn more about us.

Your audition or interview day is a chance to explore St Mary's and get to know the academic staff who will be instrumental to your university experience.

We encourage you to come equipped with questions about the curriculum, teaching methods and student life. Your curiosity will not only demonstrate your genuine interest but will also help you determine if St Mary's is the right fit for you.

Pre-audition and interview checklist

- ☐ Confirm with St Mary's that you can attend your interview.
- ☐ Check where and what time your interview or audition is taking place.
- ☐ Confirm travel arrangements – check the St Mary's website for maps and directions.
- ☐ Depending on subject, complete and return any documentation as required.
- ☐ Practice makes perfect! Practice your answers or audition monologue with a friend, teacher, adviser, parent or carer.
- ☐ Prepare the evidence you're going to use in your interview answers.
- ☐ Research St Mary's and think about why you want to study with us.
- ☐ Write down questions to ask academic staff or students on the day.

We're here to support you

If you require any adjustments for your audition or interview, please email wellbeing@stmarys.ac.uk with information about your interview and any required adjustments. If you have any other questions about the support St Mary's can offer, you can reach out to our friendly Student Services team at studentservices@stmarys.ac.uk.

Have any questions?

If you have any questions about the audition or interview process at St Mary's, get in touch with the Student Recruitment team at hello@stmarys.ac.uk who are ready to help.



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One thing I would tell myself now before my interview is that there is no need to stress as much. Everyone is in the same boat and St Mary's lecturers are there to support you. Remember that this is a moment you have prepared for and worked hard to get to, so be proud of the progress and the steps you are taking.

*Rachel Madeley
BA Primary Education (Hons) with QTS*

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BA Acting (Hons)

Your audition day isn't just about showcasing your talent – it's your chance to explore life at St Mary's! You'll get to meet the academics who will be teaching you, learn more about your course, and see where you'll be studying. Come prepared with questions for the academic staff and current students. This will help you make an informed choice and decide if St Mary's is the perfect fit for you.

Unlike many conservatoires, we don't charge audition fees because we believe everyone should have the chance to study acting. We're all about unlocking your potential, and our team is here to support you from day one as you pursue your journey to becoming a professional actor.

The audition process

You will be asked to perform a two-minute monologue from a play of your choosing. This should be classical or contemporary, but not a film or TV script. You will

be interviewed post-audition about your interest in the course and your possible routes for development beyond graduation.

You will have the opportunity to take part in a group workshop, meet the academic team and other students already on the programme. You'll also receive a tour of the spaces in which you'll be learning.

Bring your performance to life!

Whether it's in-person or a digital audition, remember the physicality of your performance matters. Avoid staying static – we want to see how you bring the role to life through movement. Use your space to show how you can physically embody the character. This will give you the best chance to fully showcase your acting abilities.

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I remember my audition day for BA Acting because it was the most comfortable and confident I've felt at an audition. The team truly wants to see you shine as an individual, so bring what makes you 'you' unapologetically into the room.

Choose a monologue that you can bring a bit of yourself into, and make sure you know the text inside out! While it's scary to be with new people, you're all in the same boat. If I could go back and tell myself anything before my audition, I'd say to try my best to relax and not to put so much pressure on myself to be 'perfect' – the lecturers really want everyone in the room to succeed.

Megan Wells, BA Acting (Hons)

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BA Creative Production (Hons)

The team will ask that you bring a portfolio with you, as you will have the opportunity to discuss it with a member of the Creative Production team during your interview. You will also have the opportunity to meet the whole academic team and speak to other students currently studying BA Creative Production.

Portfolio guidance

Putting together a portfolio is an excellent opportunity for you to showcase your skills, talent and interests. It doesn't have to be a formal portfolio. You can bring photos, drawings or sketches. What's most important is that the BA Creative Production team can see evidence of your work, in order to make an assessment that represents the best of you.

Your portfolio can include:

- Design and technical work you have done for theatre or live events
- Art projects
- Graphics
- Costume work
- Anything that gives the team an insight to your creative work



Interview preparation

Top tips from Lesley Talbot

BA Creative Production Course Lead

"Make sure to talk about your previous experiences of shows and events you have worked on at school, with an amateur dramatics group, stage school, one-off workshops or national youth theatre.

Think about why you are interested in a Creative Production degree. What are your areas of interest? Where do you hope to see yourself in five years' time with your career in creative production (it's OK to be honest if you don't currently know where you see yourself in five years!).

Let your passion for your areas of interest in creative production shine through. Talk about the inspirations you drew on for your creative work: have you seen a show that has been memorable to you because of a particular element, such as the set, costume, lighting or sound designs?

What are your expectations of the degree; what do you hope to gain from this course?

Be your true self at the interview as it will help with calming nervousness. We want to get to know you as well as your creative work!"

BSc Physiotherapy (Hons)

Your interview will last up to two hours and will consist of various stages with a member of our Physiotherapy lecturing staff. Like the rest of our courses that require interview, you will get the chance to tour our facilities during this time too.

Here's how it breaks down:

Group session

You'll start off by watching a video of a healthcare team in action. Afterwards, you'll engage in a discussion with other peers being interviewed to share your thoughts and insights.

These are the skills you'll be assessed on as part of the group session:

- Your communication within a group setting
- Your active listening skills
- Your ability to speak clearly
- Your ability to respond to others
- Your discussions and participation within group activities
- Your ability to be able to provide clear and succinct feedback

Individual session

Following the group session, you'll have a one-to-one interview with a member of the Physiotherapy team. This is your moment to shine and showcase your passion!



Here are some tips from our academics who will be interviewing you on the day:



Reflect on why you want to study the subject and research the role of physiotherapists within the NHS. This will help you articulate your motivations and demonstrate your understanding of the profession.



Be aware of 'hot topics' within the profession. Some physiotherapy healthcare hot topics might include: Covid-19, cancer care, mental health, elderly care or urgent care. How does physiotherapy play a role within these?



Come prepared to talk about your experience. Most healthcare course interviews and applications will require you to demonstrate that you have work experience in a relevant field. What real world exposure do you have? How has this prepared you for your studies?



Make sure to research St Mary's before attending your interview. Do you know what we offer and the demands of the course?



Think about evidence you can use within your answers which demonstrate these transferable skills essential to physiotherapy:
Caring | Interpersonal | Approachable



Make sure to practice common interview questions with a friend, teacher, parent or carer. Get feedback on your answers and how you come across.



My first tip when preparing for an interview is to make sure to be on time and look confident. Secondly, research your university, course and most importantly know your standards of proficiency as a Physiotherapist. If I could go back, I would tell myself to smile and give it my best shot! Interviews have always been a daunting experience for me, but once I understood the quote 'what is meant to be, will be' it made the experience more bearable. I prepared myself to the best of my ability and gave it my all, knowing that whatever the outcome was I could be proud of myself.

Ahmed El Hana, MSc Physiotherapy

Your BA Primary Education (Hons) with QTS interview (including work-based routes)

What to expect

When you arrive, our friendly Student Ambassadors—many of whom are also studying Primary Education with QTS—will be there to welcome you and guide you to your interview. You'll be joined by other candidates, which is a great chance to meet potential future classmates and connect with current students. Feel free to ask them any questions you may have about life at St Mary's.

Before your interview day make sure you've downloaded the 'BA Primary Education interview checklist' which is available on our website. This will help you ensure that you've completed all the relevant steps prior to your interview. And don't forget to bring the relevant ID as requested.

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When preparing for the interview, it is important to remember that St Mary's is not looking for you to be a first-class teacher already. They want to hear about your experience, skills and how you can apply yourself to university and the classroom. Motivation and personality shine through the most in an interview, so be yourself! Apply yourself to everything during the interview. If it means calmly talking through your SMART targets or reading a children's book with a silly voice, show them your confidence and flexibility – even if you are super nervous!

Corrine Anstey, BA Primary Education (QTS)

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Interview preparation

Grace Murphy

a current BA Primary Education (Hons) with QTS student, shares her top tips and interview day experience

“My first top tip for preparing for an interview would be to do a mock interview. If you’re currently in school or college, ask your teachers about their experience. They’ve all had a job interview to be a teacher! Doing a mock interview with my tutor helped me to understand what kind of questions may come up and gave me ideas on how best to answer the questions, particularly using the STAR interview technique.

On the day, expect to do some waiting, there will be other candidates and each of you will have a short time slot. When you arrive, you will be greeted by a friendly Student Ambassador at the main entrance. They will take you to “K Block” (the Education building) where all your future lectures might be. When the time comes to be interviewed, your name will be called, and you will be interviewed by one of St Mary’s lovely lecturers.

I found the experience to be far less daunting than I thought it would be. When you start the interview, you become more relaxed, and you just have a normal chat with a lecturer.”

Preparing for your interview

Before the big day, spend some time reflecting on why St Mary’s and a teaching degree are the right path for you. Think about past experiences you’ve had working with children – examples that showcase your ability to inspire and engage young learners.

You’ll also want to consider your personal experiences with learning: What made you want to become a teacher? How have those experiences shaped your understanding of the challenges and rewards in the teaching profession?

Before your interview, the Primary Education team will send you further guidance on what to expect on the day and the types of questions you may be asked. Make sure to read all this information through carefully once you receive it, and use it to prepare your answers in advance.



Use the STAR Technique

The STAR technique (Situation, Task, Action, Result) is a powerful tool to help structure your responses with clear evidence from your experiences. When asked about your background or your motivation, STAR helps you present well-rounded answers, demonstrating your readiness for a university-level teaching program and a future in primary education.

Potential Interview Question	Situation Describe the situation, context or background	Task What was the task you had to complete

Prepare your evidence for interview

For interviews that may ask you to share experiences demonstrating specific skills, it's helpful to prepare examples in advance. If you're unsure where to begin, use this guide as a starting point to outline key experiences that connect to the course you're applying for.

Consider potential questions you might encounter, then bullet point how you would answer them with relevant personal experiences. This approach will help you feel confident, prepared, and ready to showcase your strengths.

	Action What did you personally do?	Result What was the positive outcome of your actions?
What skills are you looking to perform?		

Good luck!

If you have any questions please reach out to us at hello@stmarys.ac.uk



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