



Admissions Interview Overview

The admissions interview is conducted by a panel of representatives from Sciences Po and the University of British Columbia. Applicants are given 30 minutes to review a two-page text taken from the international press after which they must present a structured analysis in an 8-10-minute presentation. A discussion of 15-20 minutes will follow during which the panel will ask questions regarding the article and other more general questions to assess the candidate's motivation.

How to Prepare (30 minutes)

You will receive a current affairs article in English 30 minutes before appearing in front of the panel. Use this time to read the text and develop a structured analysis based on the major issues addressed in the text. Do not only summarize the text, but also extract the main ideas and situate them in their historical, cultural or social context. In the analysis, applicants are advised to avoid positioning themselves or their personal perspectives in their respective arguments and descriptions.

It is essential to demonstrate your capacity for reflection and your ability for critical analysis and reasoning. Applicants do not necessarily require in-depth knowledge on the proposed subject matter to demonstrate their ability to formulate a structured argumentation of the text.

The Interview (20 - 30 minutes)

The interview aims to confirm elements assessed in the application form and to verify each applicant's general knowledge, language level, capacity to analyze and summarize the text, potential to adapt to a new environment and motivation in pursuing studies at Sciences Po and the University of British Columbia.

- The first 8-10 minutes of the interview will be devoted to the applicant's prepared presentation of the article. It must be clear, structured and should not exceed 10 minutes.
- The admissions panel will ask the applicant complementary questions about the applicant's commentary and topics related to the article (10 minutes maximum).
- The remainder of the interview (8-10 minutes) will be devoted to discussion of general knowledge and questions pertaining to the applicant's motivation, academic/professional ambitions, career objectives, interests and extracurricular activities.

The interview requires preparation in the following areas:

- **General knowledge** – You must be up to date on current events in your country of origin, your region and on important issues in international affairs. For example, questions regarding the European Union, its institutions, history, relations between the applicant's region and current affairs. In order to prepare, we advise that you not only consult your local news and media outlets but also take advantage of Internet to follow the foreign media and news around the world.
- **Methodological preparation** – You must work on your critical thinking skills, your ability to analyze and interpret information in order to situate a text in its proper context and construct an organized presentation (introduction, thesis, supporting arguments and conclusion).
- **Formal preparation** – It is useful to prepare yourself explicitly for the oral presentation. Pay particular attention to the time (do not exceed 10 minutes), body language, as well as to clarity of expression and diction.