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# The Nottingham BBSRC Doctoral Training Partnership



**UK  
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Biotechnology and  
Biological Sciences  
Research Council



# DTP Interview Structure

Standard DTP applicants and CASE applicants who are offered an interview will undertake 2 interviews via MS Teams:

- 30-minute academic interview with 2 or 3 panel members who are academics involved with the cluster you have selected.
- 30 minutes transferable skills interview with 2 panel members.

CASE applicants will also attend a 30-minute interview with the lead supervisor on the project along with other panel members which can include other supervisors involved with the project and the industry partner supervisor. Prior to the interview, applicants will be notified about content for the presentation in this interview.

Planned interview dates are expected to be week commencing 10 March 2025.



# Interview Format – Academic Interview

- Applicants shortlisted for interview will receive a list of questions that will be asked in the interview, approximately 7 days before the interview date.
- They will be asked to make a short presentation about a recent research project – there are no prescriptive questions for this section of the interview, but should be prepared to answer questions relating to the presentation.
- A discussion of one of three papers provided by the DTP clusters in which they will be asked to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the paper and how it relates to their experience in research.



# Interview Format – Transferable Skills Interview

These interviews are conducted by members of the DTP team and academics.

Questions asked by the panel will be assessing other skills needed during a PhD such as

- Resilience
- Problem solving
- Decision making
- Teamwork
- Time management, prioritising and organising
- Reflection

To answer these questions, specific examples can be from academic life, work experience or personal life – whatever best demonstrates the skillset.

If you need any adjustments for the interviews, please let us know.

All queries should be sent to [bbdtp@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:bbdtp@nottingham.ac.uk)