

Guidance on PhD interview format

1. Introduction, general discussion of background, skills and experience: (10 minutes)

- mathematical background, interests;
- discussion of previous modules, content and relevant experience/skills;
- fit for project: Why this supervisor? Why QMUL? Why complete a PhD?
- other outside reading, research experience not listed in the application.

2. Examination: (15 minutes)

This should be on a topic the student should be familiar with, such as:

- her/his MSc thesis project or previous research paper;
- a major theorem/topic(s) from an MSc level module in the area of the proposed research.

The applicant should be allowed to use a whiteboard or notepad to write out solutions to the questions.

3. Information about the programme: (5 minutes)

- general information about the PhD programme;
- discuss what's next in the process.

The timings of these segments are guidelines. Following them to the minute is not expected. In the interests of fairness, though, do not end interviews very early or let them overrun very long.