

Applicants to undergraduate (Bachelor's) studies at HSE St. Petersburg

Interview Guidelines

Interview basic rules

- HSE St. Petersburg International Admission sets the interview appointment (date and time) and sends an invitation to the applicant via email provided in the application.
- The interview appointment could be changed once due to a reasonable excuse. The applicant shall inform the International Admission about this change in advance by sending a notification to iadmission-spb@hse.ru with subject 'Interview appointment change_[applicant's name]'.
- At a remote (Skype) interview the applicant shall ensure good Internet connection, availability of web-camera, mic and headset or speakers.
- Prior to the interview, the Commission performs applicant's authentication: the applicant shall show his/her ID (passport) that shall match the ID stated in the application form.
- Recommended duration of the interview is about 30 minutes.

Interview's final score

- Interview's final score is the sum of scores for each of 3 key criteria applicable to a relevant undergraduate programme (see below). For the applicants to the international English-taught programmes, the score for the criteria 5 is for reference only and does not contribute to the interview's final score.
- Applications with interview's final score below 2 are rejected automatically..
- Applicants with interview's final score 2 and above are conditionally accepted and admitted to take the entrance examinations.
- Applicants scored at least 1 for the criteria 3 or 4 (subject to the programme) may be nominated to the HSE Gold Scholarship candidates short-list.
- The final decision on the HSE Gold Scholarship award is taken at the end of the application rounds 1 and 2 basing on the applicants interview final score ranking, subject to the number of scholarships (quotas) allocated to the programme for each application round.
- In case of equal interview's final score following candidates have advantage in the ranking:
 - those earned higher score for criteria 3 or 4 (subject to the programme)
 - registered participants of HSE Olympiads
 - those having relevant additional academic or scientific achievements, including international language certificates
 - pas years' nominees for HSE Gold Scholarship (quota)

Interview's Programme and Criteria

Depending on the programme selected by the applicant, the interview embraces 3 of 5 possible evaluation criteria. The criteria 5 applies to the applicants to the international English-taught programmes for reference only and does not contribute to the interview's final score:

№	Criteria	Description
1	Motivation	<p>During the interview the Commission discusses with the applicant on various aspects of the motivation letter and evaluates applicant's general capability and motivation.</p> <p>The applicant is asked to speak and comment on his/her motivation letter.</p> <p>The language of instruction is used for this part of the interview: English for the international programmes Management, Sociology and Social Informatics, Political Science and World Politics. Russian language is used for other programmes.</p>
2	Communication skills in the language of instruction	<p>During the interview the Commission evaluates applicant's ability to communicate in the language of instruction of selected degree programme.</p>
3	Math*	<p>During the interview the applicants of the following programmes: Management, Sociology and Social Informatics, Economics, Logistics and Supply Chain Management are asked to solve 3 math exercise (high school math level) within 10 minutes.</p>
4	Academic English	<p>During the interview the Commission asks the applicant to speak on several general programme filed-related questions in English language.</p> <p>The Commission evaluates general level of academic English that is required to study at the English-taught programme or to complete English-taught courses within the Russian-taught programmes.</p>
5	Academic Russian**	<p>During the interview the applicants of the international English-taught programmes (Management, Sociology and Social Informatics, Political Science and World Politics) are asked to speak on several general programme filed-related questions in Russian language.</p> <p>This criteria allows the Commission to see whether the applicant could be recommended to another, Russian-taught programme if he/she does not qualify for the international English-taught programme. The score for this criterion is for reference only and does not contribute to the interview's final score.</p>

* Criteria 3 'Math' applies only to the applicants of the following programmes: Management, Sociology and Social Informatics, Economics, Logistics and Supply Chain Management

** Criteria 5 'Academic Russian' applies only to the applicants of the international English-taught programmes Management, Sociology and Social Informatics, Political Science and World Politics for reference only and does not contribute to the interview's final score.

Interview evaluation and scoring policy

Criteria	Score			
	0 score	1 score	2 score	3 score
1 «Motivation»	fail – the applicant demonstrated no understanding of the programme’s profile, filed of study and future profession and/or was not able to deliver on the topics of the motivation letter	fair – the applicant demonstrated a very limited motivation and/or understanding of the programme’s profile, filed of study and future profession and/or was not able to speak and deliver clearly	good – the applicant demonstrated good understanding of the programme’s profile, filed of study and future profession and was able to speak clearly enough about the motivation relying on the Commission’s questions	excellent – the applicant demonstrated high motivation and great understanding of the programme’s profile, filed of study and future profession and was able to deliver on the motivation clearly, lapidary and without any assistance of the Commission
2 «Communication Skills»	no ability to communicate in the language of instruction	limited ability to communicate in the language of instruction	sufficient ability to communicate in the language of instruction	great ability to communicate in the language of instruction
3 «Math»	none of the exercises is solved	1 exercise is solved	2 exercises are solved	3 exercises are solved
4 «Academic English»	no proficiency in academic English	fair proficiency in academic English	good proficiency in academic English	high proficiency in academic English
5 «Academic Russia»	no proficiency in academic Russian	fair proficiency in academic Russian	good proficiency in academic Russian	high proficiency in academic Russian

Which criteria apply for which programmes?

Undergraduate programme	Criteria that apply at the interview and that contribute to the final score
Management Sociology and Social Science	1, 3, 4 + 5 for reference only
Economics Logistics and Supply Chain Management	1, 3, 4
Political Science and World Politics	1,2, 4 + 5 for reference only
other Russian-taught programmes (except ‘Economics’ and ‘Logistics and Supply Chain Management’)	1, 2, 4