



# PREPARING FOR YOUR NEXT-STAGE INTERVIEW

Interviews for course progression can feel overwhelming and anxiety-provoking.

'Am I good enough?', 'What will the tutors ask me?', 'I think I may be dyslexic' are just a few of the concerns learners have when thinking about progression interviews.

Some common questions that come up are:

## Will having an emotional or mental health issue stop me from progressing?

Having mental or emotional health issues should not preclude you from training. Should a tutor ask you about your mental or emotional health, be honest about how you are and what measures you are taking to keep well.

You need to be realistic if you have become unwell or are struggling with your emotional or mental wellbeing. Consider the impact of the stress of studying.

## I am dyslexic. Will this hold me back?

Having dyslexia should not be a barrier to achieving. If you are dyslexic or believe you are, you could tell your tutor.

Be aware that support for dyslexia may vary from one learning institution to another, so again be realistic about how much support you can get.

## How will the interview be structured?

Different training centres have varying approaches. These are:

### Submitting a personal statement

Tutors may ask you to write how the theory you have studied connects with your own life experience. If this is the case, you will need to cite examples of the theory as they relate to you. Perhaps you may be asked how the personal development aspect of the course changed your self-perception. The object of questions like this is to test how much your current learning has impacted on self.

### Face-to-face interview

A face-to-face interview is an opportunity for you and your tutor to meet. You may be asked to expand on your statement or be asked questions such as 'can you commit to the course?' or 'how are you working with groups?'

The object of a face-to-face interview is for the tutor to assess your commitment and motivation to study.

### Group observation

This interview technique helps the tutors assess if you can work within a group dynamic. Group work can be helpful if the tutor has to interview students they have not taught before or who have applied from another learning institution.

The object of the interview is to ask a question and watch the dynamics of the group as they debate the answer. Part of the assessment is to see how individual applicants handle debate and potential conflict. The ability to demonstrate that you have an open mind and the capacity to see both sides of a discussion is advantageous in this type of Interview.

## What are tutors looking for?

Tutors are looking for learners who are committed to completing the course, which may last for two years. They are looking for open-minded and committed individuals. Those who go on to practice level will be able to work with clients who may be very vulnerable.

They are also aware of not setting people up to fail. Recruiting students who are not academically capable or who may become emotionally unpacked during the course never ends well.

## Can I blag it?

You can try, but it is worth noting that incongruence or stretching the truth can be spotted a mile away by experienced tutors who spend their working life as counsellors.