How to ace the interview

Simon and Hallsworth fellowships showcase event

16 November 2016

Vanessa May
Sociology

vanessa.may@manchester.ac.uk
If you have got this far...
If you have got this far...

• ...well done!

• Competition is tough – draw some extra confidence from the fact that you have been shortlisted
Before the interview
Before the interview

• Think about in advance:
  • How does your proposed project build on yet differ from your previous work?
  • What is your core theoretical contribution?
  • Methods
  • Limitations of your study

• Do your homework
  • On the University of Manchester – research strategies
  • How your work connects with research in specific DAs, research centres and institutions
    • Think of what your can offer them and what they can offer you
    • Talk to key people before the interview

• Mock interviews
During the interview
During the interview

• Be positive – don’t sell yourself short
• Eye contact

• If you do not understand a question, ask for clarification
• Answer the questions, and try to give specific answers
  • Give practical examples
  • Don’t rush, give some detail
  • But don’t go on for too long
  • Don’t ask ‘Did this answer your question?’

• Thinking on your feet
• Avoid blagging if you do not know the answer to a question
After the interview

• Ask for feedback and reflect on it – regardless of the outcome