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UCL Careers - preparing for your consulting case interview

Where to find practice case studies, employer tips and expert guides when preparing for your consulting case interview. A guide from UCL Careers.

What are case interviews?

Case interviews often form part of the assessment process for consultancy roles. Case interviews are interactive exercises designed to assess how you would approach a business problem similar to that faced by a consultant. The interviewer is looking to assess how you approach problems, evaluate data, and communicate your ideas.

How can I prepare for my case interview?

Learn more about case interviews and what employers are looking for by working through e-learning courses, employer websites and assessment resources.

Detailed below are providers that UCL Careers has partnered with to offer you free access or websites with free content. Many of these websites also offer additional content such as online courses, coaching and workshops for a fee.

- <u>eCareersGrad</u>: UCL Careers has partnered with eCareersGrad to provide you with access to modular, video-based, interactive courses on Interview Success and Cracking the Consulting Case. The consulting case e-learning course includes 15+ video-based answers showing what good looks like (and doesn't) for key case scenarios including market sizing, market entry and revenue growth. The course also includes recruiter answer scoring guides and illustrated answer structures for handling the case introduction, issues analysis and dealing with the numbers, plus spotlights on using case 'frameworks', mastering note-taking and essential financial terminology and formulas. Register using your UCL email address.
- <u>Ace the Case</u>: This case interview website details what a case interview is and provides 3 free samples of different types of management consulting case interview questions (business problems and strategy, market sizing/estimating, and logic problems) with suggested solutions.
- <u>PrepLounge</u>: A community that connects aspiring consultants around the world for case interview practice. The website also offers preparation resources, including free practice cases, guides, and interactive maths practice (free registration required).
- <u>CaseCoach</u>: The CaseCoach blog offers tips on applying to consulting firms, including a guide to case interviews and a video example. CaseCoach also offers you the chance to connect with other aspiring consultants for case interview practice.
- <u>Consultingcase101</u>: This student run website offers a number of free practice cases with potential solutions. The website also allows you to connect with other people interested in case interview practice.
- <u>My Consulting Coach</u> This website offers a detailed case interview guide, and a library of practice cases with potential solutions.
- <u>LinkedIn Learning How to Succeed in a Case Study Interview</u>: This course from LinkedIn Learning features video-based content looking at what a case study interview is, how to approach case study questions, presentation tips, and sample case study interviews.
- <u>MBACASE</u>: This case interview training provider offers free practice cases and video examples (free sign up required).
- The <u>IOE Library</u> holds several books on case interviews that you can borrow to explore case interviews, such as Case in Point and Case Interview Secrets. Work through practice cases and learn how to tackle your case interview. Visit the <u>library catalogue</u> to view titles available and how to access resources if you are not on campus.



FIND your FUTURE

Where can I find real practice cases?

A number of consultancy firms publish practice cases on their websites with potential approaches, solutions, and recruiter tips. These cases are not specific to one employer so practice working through as many cases as you can. Role playing a case interview with a friend or relative can be really informative.

Employer practice cases:

- <u>L.E.K.</u> The website provides guidance on what to expect, and tips for preparing and approaching the case interview. It also includes three sample case interview questions with points to consider for each.
- <u>Kearney</u> Kearney's website includes tips for approaching the case interview, insights from current employees, and a practice case with answer guidelines.
- <u>Bain and Company</u> On the Bain and Company website, you will find two videos showing a practice case interview example for a consultant and associate consultant role. These videos include interviewer feedback. The website also includes two written case interview samples with example solutions.
- <u>Oliver Wyman</u> Oliver Wyman's website offers case interview tips, and two interactive practice cases. During these timed exercises, you will be asked to write how you would approach a number of business questions and be provided with sample answers.
- <u>Simon Kucher & Partners</u> The website provides a case interview guide, including explanations and tips, and a sample case walkthrough.
- <u>McKinsey & Company</u> On the McKinsey & Company website, you will find advice on how to
 prepare for and approach the case interview. The website also includes six practice cases with hints
 and key considerations.
- <u>Boston Consulting Group (BCG)</u> The BCG website offers advice on tackling case interviews, and two interactive practice cases. The interactive exercises guide you through completing practice case questions and provide you with an indication of your score at the end.
- <u>Roland Berger</u> This website provides a webinar recording about how to approach case interviews, and recordings discussing two practice cases. This format walks you through each case and offers example approaches.

How can I connect with other people who have done case interviews?

You may find it helpful to hear from people working in the consulting industry who have been through the case interview process or who now have a recruitment role to gain an insight into what employers are looking for.

- <u>Alumni mentoring</u> The UCL Bentham Connect mentoring platform is an online database of over 3500 UCL alumni mentors, spanning a wide range of professions, who have volunteered to give informal advice to UCL students and graduates. You can filter mentors by company, industry or job role function. UCL Bentham Connect gives you the opportunity to reach out to alumni who are working in consulting firms or related industries to ask about the recruitment process.
- <u>UCL Consulting Society</u> The UCL Consulting Society is an active student led society aimed at students interested in a career in consulting. The society offers regular talks from industry professionals, interactive case study practice sessions, project-based consulting experience, and socials focusing on commercial awareness. Membership is free.
- <u>UCL Business Society</u> The UCL Business Society is a student society which aims to help students to broaden their career choice, boost their employability and access networking opportunities. The society runs events focused on consulting case interviews, including case competitions.
- <u>WikiJob forums</u> These forums give you a chance to discuss your career related questions with other candidates. View the consultancy forum if you are looking for advice about case interviews.
- <u>Glassdoor</u> Glassdoor is a review website in which employees can anonymously review companies that they work for or have worked for in the past. The website also includes an interview section in





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which job applicants can share interview questions that they were asked by a specific employer. This can be useful for finding out the sort of case questions that employers have asked previously.

How can UCL Careers help?

- <u>Interview Coaching</u> If you have been invited to a case interview, this one-to-one roleplay coaching session can help you prepare for the real thing. You can practice working through a case example with one of our career consultants, receive feedback on your performance, and gain advice on further preparation techniques.
- <u>UCL Careers events</u> look out for relevant events, including employer presentations and our popular Management Consultancy Fair which takes place in the Autumn term.