

Interview Guidelines

Interview length: 10 minutes

****Please use the following as a guideline, not a script. Some (but not all) from each section must be covered.**

Icebreaker:

How long have you been in New York?
What is your country of origin/native language?
Do you speak another language?
What's your major?
Why did you choose to study at Pratt (in New York?)

Language learning history

(if pronunciation is native-like:) Did you go to high school in the USA/international school/study with native English speakers?
Have you attended any English schools in last few years?
How did you learn English up to this point?
What aspect(s) of the English language do you find most challenging?
How often do you read English books, magazines..., watch American TV ...etc. Tell me about something you've read in English.
What kinds of writing have you done in English? Have you written a research paper before?

Visual description: (Please do not skip this step)

This part of the interview assesses the student's ability to visually identify and describe an image (photograph, illustration, painting). Students are expected to identify the elements/components of the image (objects, people, background, foreground, shape, size, texture, line, space...etc) and successfully describe those elements using the appropriate vocabulary. While most students tend to immediately interpret the prompt, it is important to emphasize that they describe the content of the image, rather than interpret it. Failure to distinguish between the two concepts may be an indicator that the student is unable to perform the task.

Example:

I'm going to show you an image. Please tell me what you see. You don't need to tell me the meaning or tell me a story about it.
Imagine we are talking on the phone and you are describing the picture to me so that I can see it in my imagination.

(If you still want to hear more from them, and there is still time) Do you like the image? What do you think the background story is? What does the image mean to you?