



UKVI Student Visa Credibility Interview Guide

What is a Credibility Interview?

Credibility Interviews are part of the Student Visa Application process. The purpose of the interview is to assess if you are a **genuine** and **credible** student. The interviews are conducted in English and your ability to speak English is part of the assessment. A transcript of your interview will be sent to the Home Office staff member who will assess your whole application. Your visa application can be **refused** if you fail to answer the interview questions to the satisfaction of Home Office staff. The Home Office aim to interview most students.

In the UK

Please be aware, that you may be checked at the UK immigration gates, to see if you are well-versed and speak standard level of English. If the Immigration officers find you are simply unable to respond in English, your visa may be curtailed straightaway, and you will have to leave the UK. Therefore, it is highly important to fulfil the requirement of English language as well as to understand the purpose of your visit to the UK on a student visa.

Outside the UK

When you attend the visa application centre to submit your application and biometric information, you will be interviewed. You may also be asked to attend a further interview at a later date. Your initial interview will usually be via video call to a member of staff in the UK. Further interviews could be the same, via telephone or in person.

*****You must ensure that you check your emails (including junk folder). If you do not attend your interview, your application will be automatically refused*****

Preparation

It is extremely important that you prepare for your interview in advance so that you have the best chance of having a successful visa application. You should read through your **"Statement of Purpose"** from your application and ensure that you answer all questions you are asked honestly and fully.

- **Be specific** - give examples. Vague and generic answers can lead to visa refusals
- **Provide detail** - demonstrate that you have researched the course and that you have genuine reasons for coming to the UK
- **Be honest** - make sure your application is personal to you. Do not quote general statements referring to our website.

Example Questions and what to consider in your answer

Be prepared to answer any question about your decision to study in the UK and specifically about your course at UWS. Think about these 8 areas:

#1 Personal reasons for choosing to study in the UK

What other countries did you consider? Why is UWS a better option than studying in your home country? With extra costs involved in studying overseas, what are the benefits to you?

#2 Your University choice

Why did you choose UWS? How does your future study plan relate to your most recent studies or employment? What are the campus facilities like? Where will you live? If you have previously studied in the UK, why have you chosen to return now? Or, if you have had a long break in your studies, why have you chosen to return to the UK?

#3 Your Course choice

What is it specifically about the UWS course you have chosen? How does this compare to other courses? How is your course assessed and what modules are covered? You may find it useful to refer to our website.

#4 Your finances

How do you plan to pay for your course? Is this your money or your parents' money? Can you justify this significant investment. Are you aware of the total living costs in the UK including how much your accommodation will cost? Have a detailed plan of your expenses. If you have official financial sponsorship make sure you are aware of the amounts and exactly what is covered. If you have a loan, how will you afford to pay this back?

#5 Your future career goals

What will you learn that will allow you to progress your career? You need to be able to explain why the course and its content will lead to your career goal. What have you done to advance your career during any "gaps" in study. What are your plans after you graduate?

#6 Your Immigration History

If you have previously studied in the UK, why have you chosen to return? Think about how the new course relates to previous studies and how it might build on your previous learning. Why are you returning to study now? If you have had a break between studying, explain your decision in the context of your long-term career plans.

#7 Working in the UK

Do you plan to work in the UK? You cannot rely on the funds from working in the UK to pay your course fees and living costs so you need to be aware of this. The main purpose for being in the UK is your "STUDIES". If you plan to work, be mindful that your working hours do not affect your attendance and progress. You need to demonstrate an understanding of the hours you are allowed to work.

#8 Travel Plans

Do you have any travel plans? Your principal reason for being in the UK is as a student and you will not be permitted to travel during "TERM TIME". If you plan to travel throughout your time as a student, give some thought as to where you would like to go. How you can use your "OFFICIAL VACATION PERIOD" or "WRAP-UP PERIODS" (after study period) for shorter trips.

The interviewer will also be checking your ability to converse well in English, if there is any issue with hearing them clearly e.g. via the video link, you should ensure that you raise this so that they are aware that it is a technical issue not one of comprehension.

For further information click on the web links below to take you to the relevant websites

- Visit the main [UWS SharePoint, International advice section](#)
- Visit the [UKCISA](#) (UK Council for International Student Affairs) website
- Read the current [Home Office Student Visa website](#).

If you have any further questions about your visa application or your Credibility Interview, please contact the [International Student Support team](#).

If you experience something that you were not expecting or would like to inform us about your Credibility Interview process, contact us via the hub chat: hub.uws.ac.uk

