



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

Immigration officials may check how well you speak English.

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 Do not quote general statements referring to our website.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 did you choose the UK over these other countries. Your reasons must be specific to you. 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? Demonstrate that you have compared different institutions within the UK. Make your reason for choosing UWS specific to UWS, don't state library or gym facilities as these are available at all universities. 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? Make your choice of degree personal to you. 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 earnings from working in the UK to pay your course fees and living costs. The main purpose for being in the UK is to study so if you plan to work, your work must not affect your attendance, engagement and progress on your course. You need to demonstrate an understanding of the permitted working hours for a Student visa holder (usually 20 hours per week maximum in term time).

#8 Travel Plans

Do you have any travel plans? The main purpose for being in the UK is to study – travel during term time is not permitted. If you plan to travel either during the official vacation periods or in the period after your course before your visa expires, think about where you may want to visit.

Credibility Interview Guide for Continuing Students

If you're planning to apply for a student visa from outside the UK to recommence your course at UWS as a sponsored student (for example, after an interruption), you may be asked by UKVI to attend a credibility interview as part of your student visa application.

To satisfy UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) that you are a genuine student, your responses must prove that you have a deep, personal understanding of your specific programme. The UKVI caseworker is actively looking to see if you have researched your course or if you have simply memorised a generic script/answer.

To prepare for questions asked at a credibility interview, we recommend that you use the following structure to answer the questions:

1. State your point in the response
2. Explain your point with more detail
3. Give an example to explain your point

(Note the questions below are exemplary questions, and these may change during the actual credibility interview).

Your course structure

Question 1: "What can you tell me about studying your course in the UK?"

You should be able to demonstrate and describe detailed knowledge about your course content. Do your research and read about all the modules and about the significance of the modules you're studying. Demonstrate what you have personally learned and achieved studying the modules relevant to your course structure.

Tip

Avoid basic answer, be thorough about your answer and learn some examples around your course.

Your previous experience at UWS

Question 2: "Can you tell me about your experience at the University of the West of Scotland?"

Explain your actual experience at UWS and give examples of what you personally learned or achieved. You can highlight any practical, focused learning methods here at UWS. Mention specific resources or campus locations (e.g., Paisley, Lanarkshire, or London) relevant to your course. Explain how the university links to professional bodies or if you attended any event that helped you understand your course. Tell them about something personal to your own academic experience.

Tip

Describe your own real experience, think of an example where you were helped by your PL or by the management to help you feel at ease with your academic studies.

Teaching / academic environment at UWS

Question 3: "What did you like about studying at the University of the West of Scotland?"

- Give a personal example, about your specific study experience at UWS and what you have liked and why you're convinced that you will be a successful graduate when you return to complete your studies. You can discuss some practical UWS learning tools, for example:
- **The Moodle/Brightspace/Aula VLE:** Describe the different virtual learning tools UWS uses. Mention if you have used Moodle/Brightspace/Aula to access lectures and submit assignments and any benefits or differences from learning tools you have used before.
- **The Hub / Student Services:** Refer to the student support desks or the library spaces and why you have used them or how you have interacted with the campus layout and infrastructure.
- **The Teaching Style:** Be prepared to give examples of teaching styles at UWS such as "collaborative and group-work focus" of Scottish higher education, which is heavily embedded in the UWS curriculum.

Tip

Avoid any vague answers and convince with examples, as to why you liked studying at UWS.

Reason for returning to UWS and what is involved academically

Question 4: "Can you tell me what you need to complete in your course and what this involves?"

Give a very clear answer explaining any remaining modules/dissertation you need to complete and how this links to what you have previously done. Avoid unnecessarily interchanging between module and dissertation. Explain whichever is relevant (either a module or a dissertation, unless you are doing both) to you and what the module content involves or what kind of research or skills are required for your dissertation to prepare you to complete your course.

Your answer must be highly structured and focus on the technical composition of your final academic stage. Break your response down into three clear points:

- **The Exact Remaining Credits/Academic timeline:** State the exact academic components left (e.g., your final trimester, a top-up year, or your final 60-credit dissertation).
- **Give specific detail of what is academically required:** Explain the day-to-day academic work required (e.g., independent primary research, data analysis, or a major practical project for example you could discuss the word count (e.g. 12000 words) required in your final project).
- **The Assessment Methodology:** Explain exactly how this final work will be graded and submitted to UWS and to achieve these grades, what's your personalised study plan.

Tip

Know your course module features, show your strategy how you plan to prepare for your last exams.

Preparing to complete your studies at UWS and explaining why this qualification is necessary for your future career

Question 5: “How are you preparing to complete your academic studies and how do you plan to use this qualification?”

Your answer should show a clear plan for completing your studies and link this to your future career goals. Explain what specific steps you will take or how you will use academic sources to achieve this. Your answer should demonstrate strong preparation or understanding of what is required in managing your remaining studies and link this to any future jobs you plan to apply for. Explain how this qualification will help you in future job roles.

- Time Management & Independent Study: Outline your weekly study schedule, emphasising the UK standard of independent research.
- Engagement with UWS Resources: Explicitly name the university tools and platforms you will use daily.
- Proactive Academic Support: Explain how you will interact with your module coordinator or dissertation supervisor.
- Feedback & Adaptation: Mention how you will use constructive feedback from early drafts to improve your final submissions.
- Refer to specific job roles/ future careers linked to your area of study. Avoid generic answers and mention any companies you have already looked at with regards job applications and link why this qualification would be necessary.

Tip

Avoid/do not use, phrases like ‘hopefully’ or ‘I hope’ as this come across as uncertain preparation. It makes it seem like you are not confident in doing this. Have a clear plan which will help you to complete the module successfully.



The interviewer will also check your ability to speak and understand English. If you have an issue hearing the interviewer clearly for example due to a poor video link, you must make them aware of the issue. This is so that they understand that there is a technical problem rather than an issue with your comprehension.

Before your interview ends, you should ask the interviewer for a copy of the interview transcript. This may be needed at a later date for example if your visa application is refused.

For further information, see the [**UK Council for International Student Affairs \(UKCISA\) website**](#).

If you have any further questions or if you experience something during a credibility interview that you were not expecting or would like to inform us about you can come to an on campus drop in session or arrange an online or in person appointment – this is the quickest way to access advice and support from the International Student Support Team.

See the [**SharePoint events page**](#) for dates/times of upcoming drop in sessions on campus – (note that you must be signed into your UWS Microsoft 365 account to access the SharePoint site and may need to amend the date range to see all upcoming sessions). You don't need to pre-book if you want to come to a drop in session but if you would be travelling to campus primarily to come to a drop in, please double check SharePoint for the latest availability before your journey to campus.

To book an online (Microsoft Teams) Q & A quick appointment, visit our dedicated [**Bookings page**](#). The Bookings page can be accessed 24/7 and you can select a Q & A appointment on your preferred day. You will be allocated 10-minutes to speak in private to a member of the International Student Support Team.

Alternatively, 30 minute appointments can be booked by contacting the Student Hub team (appointments are available on weekdays and are usually by Teams or in person).

Contact the Student Hub team in person on campus or by:

WhatsApp: 0141 848 3998 | **HubChat:** [**hub.uws.ac.uk**](https://hub.uws.ac.uk)

*You must only submit genuine documents in support of your visa application. Submitting fraudulent or falsified documents is very serious and could result in your visa being refused and you being issued with a lengthy ban from entering the UK. If your visa application is refused on the grounds of submitting fraudulent or falsified documentation, UWS will not refund your tuition fee deposit.