

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 Do not quote general statements referring to our website.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.

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

*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.

