

CREDIBILITY INTERVIEWS

Guide for Students



What is a credibility interview?

Whether you are applying from overseas or from the UK, credibility interviews are part of the Student visa application process.

The purpose of a credibility interview is to ascertain that a student's intentions to study in the UK are genuine. During the interview you will also be expected to demonstrate that your English language ability is sufficient to follow your chosen course and level of study.

If you are required to attend an interview then this will be mandatory. If you fail to attend your visa will be refused.

Tip #1 Remember to regularly check the email account you included in your visa application form, including your 'junk' folder, for important messages about your visa application. Failure to attend an interview will result in your visa being refused.

Who will be called for interview?

All Student visa applicants applying from overseas are likely to be called to interview. Those applying from within the UK may be called for interview.

When and where will I be interviewed?

If applying from overseas the interview will probably take place at the visa application centre where you submit your application and biometric information. It will take place at the same time you submit your application and biometric information.

If applying from the UK the interview will usually take place at a centre in London (although this is not always the case) a couple of weeks after you have submitted your application and supporting documents.

The date, time and location of the interview will be sent to you by email and letter. You must then confirm to the Home Office that you will attend the interview. If you are unable to attend, you must inform the Home Office immediately. You must enrol your biometrics before you attend your interview.

Tip #2 Once completed you should request a transcript of the interview and make a note of what you said in the interview. This could help if you are called back for a second interview or your application is refused.



How will I be interviewed?

The interview will usually be conducted in English via a video link with the Home Office in the UK (although the interview can also take place face-to-face or by telephone). The interview will last approximately 15 -20 minutes, although interviews conducted in the UK can be longer. Your answers will be recorded in writing and sent to an Entry Clearance Officer (overseas applications) or to a caseworker (UK applications). The answers you gave will then be assessed, along with your supporting documents and visa application form.

The interviewer will be assessing your ability to have a conversation in English, so you should let the interviewer know immediately if you cannot hear what is being said OR the video-link connection is bad. Otherwise the interviewer may mistake this as you not being able to understand.

You may be called for a further interview if more information is needed, or they want to clarify something you have previously said. If you need to attend a second interview, again you will usually be notified via email.

However the further interview could also be conducted face-to-face or by telephone.





Tip #3 Relax and answer all the questions in full as naturally as you can. Some of the questions you will be asked are designed to check your English language fluency and may not be linked to your course of study. The interviewer is not trying to trick you, but is trying to assess whether you can understand them and have a conversation.

Remember the initial interviewer will not have access to your visa application form so will not have any prior knowledge of what you have done before or what you want to do now.

Typical questions you may be asked

In addition to assessing your level of spoken English, the Home Office expects the interviewer to be satisfied about the reasons why you are applying for a Student visa, and that you genuinely wish to come to the UK to study – and not for any other reasons. Here are some areas which you may be questioned about during your interview. You may be asked additional questions not covered below. Questions can be asked in any order.



Intention to study

Q. Why have you chosen the University of Hertfordshire?

- Think about the reasons why the University of Hertfordshire attracted you more than other universities in the UK offering the same course. Did you look at other options? Why did you decide on the University of Hertfordshire?
- Think about the facilities offered at the University of Hertfordshire, including which accommodation is available. Have a look at our [website](#).
- The location of the University – where is the University located? Think about your travel arrangements to the University (if you are not staying in university accommodation).
- Where is Hertfordshire? Perhaps take a look at some [British websites](#).
- How large is the University? Have you had a chance to do some research about the University of Hertfordshire?
- Do you know anyone who has studied at the University of Hertfordshire? The Home Office would not expect this to be the main reason that you come to UH to study, but perhaps friends or family have told you more about the University, making your choice easier.
- Is there an orientation programme and a meet and greet service available for international students?

Q. Why do you want to study in the UK?

- Think about why studying in the UK will benefit you more than studying in your home country, or another English speaking country.
- You could talk about what you have learned about the British education system.
- How will the experience benefit you?

Other useful web links:

[Pre-arrival Guide](#)

[Facebook](#)

[The Complete University Guide](#)



Tip #4 When answering questions, speak naturally, as if you were having a conversation with a friend or a family member. The interviewer will be looking for fluency in the answers and for signs indicating that a student may have been 'coached'.



Your chosen course of study

Q. Why have you chosen this course?

- Think about the process you went through on deciding your course and how it relates to any previous study. What attracted you to the course?
- How much do you know about the course and the modules you will be studying? How long will the course last? Read through the course details of your chosen course on the [University website](#).
- What qualification will you receive? Check your CAS or offer letter. What level is the course, e.g. Bachelors (BA or BSc), Masters (MA or MSc) or PhD?
- How will the course help you to achieve your chosen career path?

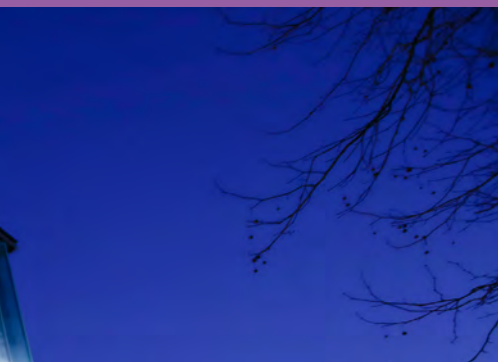
Q. How is your course assessed?

- Check the [University website](#). Is your course assessed by exam, coursework, etc.?

Academic history

Q. What have you studied previously?

- If you completed a SELT (Secure English Language Test) they may want to know details of when and where you took that test.
- How will this course enhance the subjects you have already studied?
- Can you explain any gaps in your studies? Explain why and what you did during those gaps, and the reason you have decided to return to studies. If you are a mature student, why are you ready to return to studies now?



Finances

Q. Who will be paying for your studies?

- You, your parents, a private sponsor?
If your parents are financing you, you could be asked how they are able to do this. Remember that documents confirming their financial status will be included with your application.
- Be very clear about the source of your funds which you have submitted evidence of with your application.
- If your course is longer than a year - how will you fund subsequent years?
- If you have a loan - how will you pay back the loan after you have completed your studies?
- If you are sponsored - you must know the amount of money you will receive, and what this money covers.
- You should know how much your accommodation in the UK will cost and what your living expenses will be. Remember to talk about financial support from parents, or perhaps any money you've saved in order to fund yourself.
- Do you know how many hours maximum you can work in the UK, and what the likely hourly rate is? You shouldn't be relying on work to cover your tuition fees and finance. Take a look at these pages on gov.uk: [Student Visa](#) and [National Minimum Wage](#)
- We do not advise you to depend on finding work in the UK in order to finance your studies.





Immigration History

Q. Can you tell me about any previous visas/visa applications?

- You may be asked about your previous immigration record – the different types of visas you have had (or applied for) and where and when they were granted. You may also be asked about any prior visa refusals to any country.
- Make sure you know your responsibilities as a Student visa holder - have a look at the [UKCISA website](#) guidance which tells you more about protecting your Student status.

Future plans

Q. What are your plans after you have graduated?

- Think about your future plans, whether you wish to continue studying in the UK at a higher level, return to your home country to find a job, remain in the UK to work.
- Research your job prospects - how will your degree help you gain employment?

If your visa is refused

If your visa is refused for any reason it is essential that you let the University know straight away by emailing ukvienquiries@herts.ac.uk. The refusal letter will advise you if you have the right of administrative review. There is a deadline to submit a request for administrative review so make sure you apply in-time. More details can be found on the [Home Office website](#) or contact the Student Immigration Team by email: SITadvice@herts.ac.uk.

Important

Do not attempt to reapply for a new visa with the same CAS number. If you submit another application with the same CAS, that application will be refused. You can only use a CAS number once.

Useful links

- [Credibility interviews](#)
- [Preparing and planning](#)
- [Protecting your student status](#)
- [Home Office Student Visa Policy Guidance](#)







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