

Study Group Guide to Credibility Interviews

The information below includes examples of the types of question the student may be asked during the video interview with Home Office staff in the UK as part of the new video interview procedure or as part of any face-to-face or telephone Credibility Interview with an Entry Clearance Officer (ECM) or Entry Clearance Manager (ECM) at the students local Visa Application Centre or British Embassy.

Some questions may be considered culturally sensitive but students must be ready to answer all types of questions to allow the Home Office staff to collect all relevant and necessary information accordingly.

If the student fails to attend an interview when invited, their visa application will be refused. Failure to check postal and email correspondence will not be considered legitimate reason for non-attendance.

Most importantly, students must answer honestly and truthfully to the best of their knowledge when questioned by any member of UKBA and Home Office staff.

Course / Institute and Intention to Study Questions

It is essential the student is fully aware of all relevant details relating to their intended course of study (hours per week, core modules, relevant awards and assessment methods etc.) and the reason behind their choice to study the course and why they chose the intended Institution.

Students should be prepared to answer questions about their intentions after the intended course whether this relates to further study (progression to a UK University for example) or ultimately to return to their home country.

It is also very important the student knows the type of entry clearance (i.e. type of visa) they will be applying for enter the UK and to study and what conditions and restrictions the visa might have (i.e. working rights, type of study allowed etc.).

- ✓ Why do you want to study in UK?
- ✓ What are the benefits of studying in the UK compared to your home country or USA/Canada/Australia etc.?
- ✓ Why did you choose this University/College?
- ✓ How did you find about it?
- ✓ Which other colleges/universities have you considered?
- ✓ Where is the college/university?
- ✓ Do you know anyone who has already studied there?

- ✓ Do you know roughly how large the college/university is?
- ✓ Why did you choose this course and how does it relate to your previous study?
- ✓ How do you explain the gaps in your study/professional history?
- ✓ What is the relevance of the course to your future career path?
- ✓ What qualification will you receive?
- ✓ How long does the course last?
- ✓ How is your course assessed? (apparently frequently asked and students do not know)
- ✓ Do you know what level your course is at?
- ✓ Did you consider any other course?
- ✓ Does this course offer any professional recognition?
- ✓ Are you planning to stay in the UK on completion to study for a higher award?
- ✓ Are you thinking of transferring to another institution on completion?
- ✓ What facilities are you expecting at the college/university?
- ✓ Do you have relatives who have studied at similar level or studied overseas?
- ✓ Do you think your course is appropriate for someone your age?
- ✓ Will you need help finding accommodation?
- ✓ Do you need a meet and greet service?
- ✓ Do you understand the responsibilities of students entering the UK under Tier 4 of the PBS?

Financial Questions

The student should also be prepared to answer questions relating to the financial and employment situation of the person(s) (parent or legal guardian only) who will be covering the costs of the course and maintenance fees. Government Sponsored students must ensure they know the full details of their sponsorship and what exactly is covered and what (if anything) they must cover themselves and how this will be funded.

- ✓ What is your current occupation?
- ✓ Who is financing your studies?
- ✓ What is the profession of your financial sponsor and what relationship they have to you?
- ✓ Do you have evidence of the financial status of your financial sponsor, e.g. bank statements for last 6 months, bonds, investments, etc.?
- ✓ Are you able to verify the genuineness of these documents?
- ✓ Can you prove the money is available for study?
- ✓ Would you be able to pay your tuition fees in full up front?
- ✓ Have you checked the refund policy?
- ✓ Do you know what your accommodation will cost in the UK?
- ✓ Do you know how much your living expenses will be?
- ✓ Do you know whether you are entitled to work part-time in the UK?
- ✓ Do you know how many hours are you allowed to work?
- ✓ Do you know the likely hourly rate of pay?
- ✓ How reliant are you on being able to work?

Useful links:

Student responsibilities as a Tier 4 Student

The below link is the published Home Office Tier 4 Policy Guidance for Students which outlines all the conditions of stay and responsibilities a student has as a Tier 4 student studying in the UK:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/applicationforms/pbs/Tier4migrantguidance.pdf>

The below link is from UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) and outlines all the relevant details about a student's conditions and responsibilities as a Tier 4 student:

http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/student/info_sheets/protect_t4_status.php

Why study in the UK?

For useful information about why students chose to study in the UK please click on the British Council link below:

<http://www.educationuk.org/UK/A-UK-education>

Bellerbys College

For all the information students may need regarding their studies at one of our 4 Bellerbys centres at Brighton, London, Cambridge and Oxford please click on the link below:

<http://www.bellerbys.com/>

International Study Centres

For all the information students may need regarding their studies at one of our International Study Centres please click on the appropriate link below:

Heriot-Watt University International Study Centre:

<http://www.studygroup.com/isc/heriotwatt/>

University of Huddersfield International Study Centre:

<http://www.studygroup.com/isc/huddersfield/>

Istituto Marangoni International Study Centre:

<http://www.iscistitutomarangoni.com/>

Keele University International Study Centre:

<http://www.studygroup.com/isc/keele/>

Kingston University, London International Study Centre:

<http://www.studygroup.com/isc/kingston/>

Lancaster University International Study Centre:

<http://www.lancasterisc.com/>

Leeds International Study Centre:

<http://www.leedsisc.com/>

University of Leicester International Study Centre:

<http://www.studygroup.com/isc/leicester/>

University of Lincoln International Study Centre:

<http://www.studygroup.com/isc/lincoln/>

Liverpool John Moores University International Study Centre:

<http://www.studygroup.com/isc/ljmu/>

Royal Holloway, University of London International Study Centre:

<http://www.rhul.ac.uk/international/englishlanguage/ifp/home.aspx>

University of Strathclyde International Study Centre:

<http://isc.strath.ac.uk/>

University of Surrey International Study Centre:

<http://www.studygroup.com/isc/surrey/>

University of Sussex International Study Centre:

<http://www.studygroup.com/isc/sussex/>

Please note: All details above are based on the available information from the Home Office as of 13th May 2013 and could be subject to change pending any future announcements from the Home Office. Study Group will endeavour to keep you updated should any of the details change accordingly.