

UKBA credibility checks (student interviews)

Students may be required to have an interview (credibility check) when applying for their visa. During this interview, they must be able to demonstrate their English language ability is at the standard required by the Tier 4 Immigration Rules. Students must also be able to explain their choice of study location, their study plan/goals and ability to finance their study in detail. If they fail to do so, the entry clearance application may be refused and they may be refused permission to enter the UK.

Please inform your market manager if any of your students are called in for interviews and we will be happy to assist with any concerns or questions raised.

What are the UKBA looking for during the interview?

The UKBA will interview students to reduce any abuse of the student visa system. They are checking that the students are genuine, credible and can complete their course. They will be checking five main areas. The student must have:

1. Intention to study the proposed course

- A strong academic background.
- No prolonged gaps in study that cannot be explained to UKBA.
- Knowledge of the course and institution at which they are to study, and awareness of alternatives.
- Applied for a level of course that is academic progression from previous studies.
- Chosen the particular course or institution themselves, not from undue influence from family, friends and agents.
- Good reasoning for their choice of course, college and university, and be responsible for their own learning.

2. Ability to study the proposed course

- English ability that matches the level of their SELT test.

3. Intention to leave the UK at the end of the course

- A clear plan for when they finish their course.
- Ties with their home country, including family and business interests.

4. Ability to accommodate and maintain themselves and any dependents

- A clear explanation of the source of funds or how they would meet course and maintenance costs for the duration of the pathway and university course.
- Funds that can be accessed from the UK.

5. An understanding of their responsibilities as a Tier 4 student

- Knowledge of their Tier 4 responsibilities and conditions of stay, such as full attendance, police registration (where necessary), working restrictions etc.

All information regarding KIC, our courses, the colleges and our partner universities can be found in this partner guide, in our prospectuses and on the KIC websites: www.kic.org.uk/pathways

Alternatively please ask your market manager for further information.

Sample Questions

Intention to study

- What type of entry clearance (visa) are you applying for?
- Why do you want to study in the UK?
- What are the benefits of studying in the UK compared to your home country or USA/Canada/Australia etc.?
- What course will you study in the UK?
- Why did you choose this course in particular and why at this College?
- How did you find out about the College?
- Which other colleges/universities have you considered?
- Where is the college?
- Where will you live in the UK and how far is it from your College?
- Do you know anyone who has already studied there?
- Do you know roughly how large the College is?
- What will you study during the course? What are some of the modules you will study?
- How many hours a day will you study?
- 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 your course last?
- How is your chosen course assessed?
- Do you know what level your course is?
- 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 understand the responsibilities of students entering the UK under Tier 4 of the PBS?

Financial viability

- How much are your course fees and who is paying for your course?
- Do you have to pay for all of the fees up front, or can you pay in instalments?
- Do you know how much it will cost to live in the UK?
- Do you know how much accommodation will be in the UK?
- What is the profession of your financial sponsor and what relationship are they to you?
- What do your parents do for a living?
- Can you prove you have the funds necessary to cover the tuition and maintenance fees for your course?
- Do you know whether or not you are allowed to work whilst studying at the College?

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