

## A Guide to Credibility Interviews

As part of the Student Route visa application process a caseworker must assess whether you are a genuine student.

The caseworker will consider various factors when assessing whether your plans to study in the UK are genuine. You may be invited to attend a credibility interview as a result of the assessment.

Please note that not all applicants are interviewed. Sometimes interviews are arranged at random and other times they are arranged on the basis of the perceived level of risk.

If a caseworker is not satisfied on the balance of probabilities that you intend to study and comply with all relevant requirements your application will be refused.

### Tips:

1. Check your emails regularly (junk folder too) to see if you receive an email about an interview.
2. Try to relax and answer the questions in full and as naturally as you can. You should answer honestly and be prepared to expand on your answers – say as much as you can about the reasons for planning to study on your chosen course at the University of Chichester and in the UK.
3. After the interview try to write down your answers and ask to receive a transcript of the interview so that you can be better prepared for your second interview or use it to challenge a refusal (if applicable)

### Questions you may be asked:

#### Why do you want to study in the UK?

- Think about the reasons for studying in the UK. Why have you chosen to do a degree outside your own country? Why have you chosen the UK rather than another English-speaking country?
- Your choice could link to what you know about the British education system. Or maybe it is something else? Be prepared to explain what influenced your decision making and why it led to your choice.
- You may be asked to explain how the experience of studying in the UK may benefit you.

To help you prepare for your time in the UK please visit the [Study UK](#) and [UKCISA](#) websites.

#### Why do you want to study at the University of Chichester?

Be specific about your reasons for studying at Chichester rather than quoting generic information from our website or refer to our ranking.

- Did you consider other universities? Why did you choose Chichester? How is Chichester different to those other universities you considered?
- What about facilities at Chichester? What attracted you about our campuses/ teaching facilities/accommodation? Check our website for more information on these points.

- What about the location of the University of Chichester? Do you know where the University is located? Are you aware of the two campuses and do you know which campus you will be based at? How are you going to travel to the campus and your university accommodation (if you have booked to live in the halls of residence). See International Pre-Arrival guide <https://www.chi.ac.uk/international/international-student-support/pre-arrival-information> and our website <https://www.chi.ac.uk/student-life/accommodation> to help you prepare.
- What do you know about the county of West Sussex, where the University of Chichester is located at? What do you know about this area? Check the official Tourism information website to familiarise yourself with the area: <https://www.experiencewestsussex.com/>
- How big is the University? How many students does the University of Chichester have? Have you researched the University in full? Check our website for this information.
- Have you checked what pre-arrival information is available for international students? Is there an orientation event for international students at the beginning of the academic year? See our website for information: <https://www.chi.ac.uk/international/international-student-support/pre-arrival-information>

### **What about your chosen degree studies?**

- Think about the process of deciding to study on your chosen degree and how this degree relates to any previous study you may have taken.
- How much do you know about the course and the modules? How long is your course? See “subject areas” section on our website: <https://www.chi.ac.uk/>.
- What qualification will you receive? BA/BSc/MA/MSc or PhD?
- Think about what your plans are after you graduate - how will the knowledge and skills you gain from your course help you with the type of work you hope to do. Does your course lead to any professional qualifications and are these recognised in your country? Do you know what others graduating from the course you will be following went on to do, e.g. the types of roles and organisations they work for? If the course you plan to study is at a similar academic level to previous studies, how does it represent progression? Be prepared to explain if any of this applies.

### **What about assessments during your studies?**

- Research the assessment methods used at the University of Chichester/your programme of choice. Do you know if you are going to be assessed by exam or coursework or a combination of both?

### **Your previous studies**

- What have you studied previously?
- How will this degree enhance your knowledge in addition what you have studied before?
- Can you explain any gaps in your studies? Is there a lengthy gap between your previous studies and this degree? If you are a mature student explain why you are planning to return to your studies now. Be prepared to explain what you did during the years you did not study.
- Are the documents you have provided relating your previous studies genuine? Can the home office contact your previous educational institution without any difficulties to verify that your qualifications are genuine?

## Finances

The purpose of these questions is to check that your funds are genuinely available to you to finance your studies.

- How will you pay for your studies? Who will provide the funds - you/ your parents, a sponsor? If you parents are planning to support you, you could be asked how they can afford this.
- Remember that you have to submit evidence of funds as part of your visa application. Be clear about the source of the funds you have submitted as part of your application.
- If your course lasts longer than one academic year, how will you finance your studies during the following years?
- Have you taken out a loan? How will you pay this back after completing your studies?
- Can you confirm that the evidence you have provided is genuine and the home office will be able to verify the evidence by contacting your bank?
- If you have an official financial sponsor, you should be clear about the amount of money you are due to receive and what that covers.
- Be clear about your accommodation costs in the UK. Find out how much your living expenses will be. Explain how your parents may be offering support or maybe you have savings that you will be using?
- Are you aware of the Student Route Visa related employment restrictions? You should not rely on employment to pay your fees and living costs. Read more about employment rules on our website <https://www.chi.ac.uk/international/visa-and-immigration/student-visa-student-route-employment-rules>
- We strongly advise against depending on finding work to finance your studies.

## Immigration history

- Be prepared to tell the interviewer of any previous immigration applications – successful and unsuccessful ones. You should talk about all your UK and non-UK visas.
- Familiarise yourself with the responsibilities of a Student Route visa holder. You can find more information on your responsibilities and how to keep your visa safe on these websites:

<https://www.chi.ac.uk/international/visa-and-immigration/protecting-your-general-student-visa-student-route>

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Visas-and-Immigration/Protecting-your-Student-status>

## Future plans

- What do you plan to do after you finish your studies? Are you planning to study further, find employment in the UK or is your plan to return to your home country to work?
- Do some research into job prospects. Be prepared to explain how your chosen degree will help with finding employment.

**What happens if you fail to attend an interview?**

An applicant who fails to participate or attend an interview risks being refused on general grounds.

**What happens if your visa is refused based on the credibility interview?**

You should get in touch with the international student advisers as soon as possible to discuss whether the decision can be overturned. Email [international@chi.ac.uk](mailto:international@chi.ac.uk) and provide a copy of the visa refusal letter.

**Who can you contact for help?**

The International Student Advisers can help you with your visa application, visa refusals and can provide information to help you get ready for your interview. Email: [international@chi.ac.uk](mailto:international@chi.ac.uk)