



## **Entry Clearance Credibility Interviews explained**

If the Entry Clearance Officer refers you for a credibility interview based on the factors listed in the “Genuine Student Rule” guidance, you may be asked to attend an interview and may be interviewed more than once.

When applying from outside the UK, you will usually be asked to attend an interview after enrolling your biometrics at the visa application centre.

### **Initial (first) interview explained**

The initial interview is a video interview conducted by a member of staff in Sheffield, UK.

The interview will take about 15 minutes and starts with an introduction. You will be asked to confirm your name and other details and you will be asked whether you can hear the interviewer clearly and whether you are fit and well enough to be interviewed.

You will be asked questions based on ‘mandatory’ subjects (see the Genuine Student Rule document).

The interviewer will take notes and form a view on whether you can speak English to a level required for your studies and answer questions in a fluent manner.

The interviewer will note if a question has to be repeated or rephrased and will ask at the end of the interview whether you have understood everything. This is a chance for you to say if you had issues understanding the interviewer due to an unfamiliar accent, speed, delivery, volume and how this may have impacted on your ability to understand. If you give a reasonable explanation, it should not be held against you.

If you are deaf or hard of hearing, or have any other disability that could make the interview difficult, you should mention this before the interview takes place so that reasonable adjustments can be made.

These interview notes will be passed onto the caseworker who will be responsible for the decision to grant your permission.

If the caseworker is concerned about your credibility they will ask you to attend a second interview that will be more in-depth.

### **Substantial (second) interview explained**

This interview could take place over the phone, online or in person. The second interview will start with a confirmation of personal details and whether you can understand and are fit and well to take part.

The questions you will be asked are based on your application, supporting documents and answers you gave during the first interview.

You may be asked questions about your finances e.g. where your funds come from; who is supporting you and how they will be able to afford to support your studies in the UK.

At the end of the interview you will be asked if you have anything to add and whether you are happy with the conduct of the interview.

**Questions you may be asked when being interviewed:**

You need to be prepared to answer a variety of questions to prove that you are genuinely planning to study in the UK.

You are expected to answer questions about your course and modules at least in some detail.

Example questions:

- reasons for choosing the degree
- details of the degree
- reasons for choosing the University of Chichester
- How the degree will help with future plans
- Reasons for choosing the UK as a study location
- Have you considered studying other degrees or at other institutions
- Location of the institution and where you will be living
- Travel from your accommodation to the University and costs incurred
- Details of last education/course studied and information about any gaps in study or courses not completed.
- Details of any dependants (children, spouse)

**READ OUR "A GUIDE TO CREDIBILITY INTERVIEWS" DOCUMENT TO HELP YOU GET READY FOR YOUR INTERVIEW.**

You should not be refused on your knowledge of the location for example if you do not know the bus routes or the geography of Chichester or Bognor Regis.

If you have applied to only one institution, you should be prepared to explain why you didn't apply elsewhere. You also need to be prepared to explain how the degree of your choice and the University of Chichester suit your needs.

Home Office considers it lack of research into other degrees/institutions as suspicious, so it is important you fully explain the reasons for your choice and how that links with your future plans (academic, career or other).