

Home Office Credibility interviews explained

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 see the [UKVI Student Route Guidance](#) for more information on the genuine student rule and interviews.

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.
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?

Why do you want to study at your chosen university?

Why have you chosen to study your subject?

What about assessments and modules during your studies?

What have you studied previously?

How will you pay for your studies? Who will provide the funds - you/ your parents, a sponsor?

Have you taken out a loan? How will you pay this back after completing your studies?

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.

How much money do you need to cover your rent and living costs?

Are you aware of the Student Route Visa related employment restrictions? You should not rely on employment to pay your fees and living costs

We strongly advise against depending on finding work to finance your studies.

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.

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? How will your chosen degree help you find employment?

Are you bringing dependants with you?

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 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 related questions. Email: international@chi.ac.uk

Useful websites:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/points-based-system-student-route>

<https://www.chi.ac.uk/study/international/visa-and-immigration/apply-for-a-student-route-visa/>

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Visas-and-Immigration/Student-route-eligibility-and-requirements>