



University of
Chester

**University of Chester
Credibility Interview
Preparation Guide**



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Purpose of the Interview

The credibility interview forms part of the University's assessment of an applicant's preparedness for study in the UK.

Students may be asked questions relating to:

- their decision to study overseas;
- their choice of university and course;
- the research undertaken before applying;
- their academic background;
- their understanding of the course;
- their future career plans.

! *Students are not expected to memorise answers. However, they should be able to discuss these topics confidently and demonstrate that they have undertaken appropriate research before making their decision.*

Study Destination Research



Students should be prepared to discuss:

- Alternative countries considered for study.
- Universities researched in those countries.
- Reasons for selecting the UK as their preferred study destination.

Examples of strong responses:

- ✓ Naming specific countries and universities researched.
- ✓ Explaining academic differences between study destinations.
- ✓ Discussing course content, accreditation, rankings, graduate outcomes, placement opportunities or teaching approaches.
- ✓ Demonstrating a structured comparison between options.
- ✓ Explaining why the UK was ultimately considered the best fit for their academic and career objectives.

Examples of responses that may raise concerns:

- ✗ Generic statements such as "the UK has a good education system".
 - ✗ Being unable to name alternative countries or universities researched.
 - ✗ Focusing only on weather, lifestyle, travel opportunities or visa routes.
 - ✗ Being unable to explain why the UK was selected over other options.
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University and Course Selection



Students should be prepared to discuss:

- Other UK universities researched.
- Similar courses considered elsewhere.
- Factors influencing their final decision.

Examples of strong responses:

- ✓ Comparing modules across multiple universities.
- ✓ Discussing placement opportunities, professional accreditation, teaching methods or specialist facilities.
- ✓ Explaining how the chosen course aligns with future career goals.
- ✓ Demonstrating understanding of the differences between courses considered.

Examples of responses that may raise concerns:

- ✗ Generic statements such as "good reputation", "good ranking" or "nice campus".
 - ✗ Focusing only on accommodation, facilities or location.
 - ✗ Being unable to explain why the chosen course was selected over alternatives.
 - ✗ Demonstrating little knowledge of competing courses.
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Research Undertaken Before Applying



Students should be prepared to discuss:

- Sources used during their research.
- Information gathered from those sources.
- How that information influenced their decision.

Examples of strong responses:

- ✓ Using multiple information sources.
- ✓ Referring to university websites, course pages, rankings, student reviews and open-source information.
- ✓ Explaining what information was gathered from each source.
- ✓ Demonstrating a structured decision-making process.

Examples of responses that may raise concerns:

- ✗ Relying solely on an agent.
 - ✗ Referring only to Google without explaining the research undertaken.
 - ✗ Being unable to explain how information was verified.
 - ✗ Demonstrating limited or superficial research.
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 **Academic Background and Progression****Students should be prepared to discuss:**

- Previous qualifications.
- Relevant academic experience.
- Skills and knowledge gained through previous study.
- How the course represents a logical next step.

Examples of strong responses:

- ✓ Explaining how previous studies relate directly to the chosen course.
- ✓ Identifying specific knowledge and skills already gained.
- ✓ Demonstrating progression into a more advanced or specialised area.
- ✓ Clearly linking previous study with future academic objectives.

Examples of responses that may raise concerns:

- ✗ Being unable to explain the relationship between previous study and the chosen course.
 - ✗ Selecting a course that appears unrelated to previous qualifications without a clear rationale.
 - ✗ Demonstrating limited understanding of how the course builds on previous learning.
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**Course Knowledge and Understanding****Students should be prepared to discuss:**

- Core and optional modules
- Topics covered within the course.
- Skills and knowledge expected to be gained.
- Areas of particular academic interest.

Examples of strong responses:

- ✓ Naming all modules.
- ✓ Explaining what those modules cover.
- ✓ Identifying specific areas of interest.
- ✓ Linking modules to future career aspirations.
- ✓ Demonstrating understanding beyond module titles.

Examples of responses that may raise concerns:

- ✗ Being unable to name course modules.
 - ✗ Simply memorising module titles without understanding their content.
 - ✗ Demonstrating limited understanding of course structure.
 - ✗ Giving generic descriptions that could apply to any course.
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Assessment and Learning Methods



Students should be prepared to discuss:

- How learning is assessed.
- Different forms of assessment used on the course.
- Independent study requirements.

Examples of strong responses:

- ✓ Demonstrating awareness of coursework, examinations, presentations, projects or dissertations.
- ✓ Understanding how different assessment methods contribute to learning.
- ✓ Showing awareness of academic expectations.

Examples of responses that may raise concerns:

- ✗ Being unable to explain how the course is assessed.
 - ✗ Assuming all assessment is examination-based.
 - ✗ Demonstrating limited understanding of course delivery.
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Campus and Learning Environment



Students should be prepared to discuss:

- Which campus their course is taught at.
- The facilities and resources available on that campus.
- How those facilities support their studies.
- Any specialist teaching, laboratory, clinical, practical or professional facilities relevant to their course.

Examples of strong responses:

- ✓ Correctly identifying the campus where the course is delivered.
- ✓ Demonstrating awareness of specialist facilities relevant to the programme.
- ✓ Explaining how those facilities support learning, practical experience and academic success.
- ✓ Showing understanding of the learning environment associated with their course.

Examples of responses that may raise concerns:

- ✗ Being unable to identify the campus where the course is delivered.
 - ✗ Demonstrating little or no awareness of facilities relevant to the course.
 - ✗ Referring only to generic facilities such as accommodation, library, cafés or sports facilities.
 - ✗ Being unable to explain how campus resources support academic study.
 - ✗ Demonstrating limited research into the practical aspects of studying on the programme
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Career Planning



Students should be prepared to discuss:

- Career aspirations following graduation.
- Industries or sectors of interest.
- Future professional objectives.

Examples of strong responses:

- ✓ Identifying specific career pathways.
- ✓ Demonstrating understanding of job responsibilities.
- ✓ Explaining realistic progression routes.
- ✓ Showing awareness of industry expectations.

Examples of responses that may raise concerns:

- ✗ Vague career ambitions.
 - ✗ Generic statements such as "I want a good job".
 - ✗ Being unable to explain the role they wish to pursue.
 - ✗ Demonstrating unrealistic expectations.
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Relationship Between the Course and Future Career Plans



Students should be prepared to discuss:

- How the course supports their future objectives.
- Knowledge and skills expected to be gained.
- How those skills support future employment.

Examples of strong responses:

- ✓ Linking modules to specific career skills.
- ✓ Explaining how the qualification supports future employment.
- ✓ Demonstrating a logical progression from study to career.

Examples of responses that may raise concerns:

- ✗ Being unable to explain how the course supports future goals.
 - ✗ Providing generic statements about improving skills.
 - ✗ Demonstrating weak connections between study plans and career ambitions.
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Additional Areas Students May Be Asked About During a UKVI Interview

Students should therefore also be prepared to discuss the following areas:



Personal Circumstances

Students may be asked about:

- Their personal background.
- Family circumstances.
- Current employment or work experience.
- Previous travel history.
- Previous visa applications, where applicable.



Funding and Financial Arrangements

Students may be asked about:

- How their tuition fees and living costs will be funded.
- Sources of financial support.
- Sponsorship arrangements, where applicable.
- Financial planning undertaken before starting their studies.



Accommodation and Living Arrangements

Students may be asked about:

- Where they intend to live.
- Accommodation arrangements.
- Estimated living costs.
- Travel and transport plans.



Understanding of Student Visa Conditions

Students may be asked about:

- Conditions attached to their student visa.
- Attendance and engagement requirements.
- Academic expectations.
- Working during studies.
- Responsibilities as an international student in the UK.



Previous Immigration History

Where applicable, students may be asked about:

- Previous UK visa applications.
- Previous visa refusals.
- Previous study in the UK or overseas.
- Travel history.



Future Plans

Students may be asked about:

- Their plans after graduation.
- How the qualification supports their future ambitions.
- Future professional opportunities.
- Long-term personal and professional objectives.



Final Preparation Checklist

Before attending an interview, students should ensure that they have:

- ✓ Researched alternative study destinations and universities.
 - ✓ Reviewed the content and structure of their chosen course.
 - ✓ Reviewed the assessment methods used on their course.
 - ✓ Considered how the course relates to their previous studies and experience.
 - ✓ Reflected on the research undertaken before applying.
 - ✓ Considered how the course supports their future career plans.
 - ✓ Prepared to discuss their decisions confidently and in their own words.
 - ✓ Reviewed the information provided in their application and supporting documents.
 - ✓ Considered practical arrangements for studying and living in the UK.
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! Important Advice

Students should:

- ✓ Answer all questions honestly and accurately.
 - ✓ Speak in their own words.
 - ✓ Ensure their interview responses are consistent with the information provided in their application and visa documentation.
 - ✓ Be prepared to explain the research and decision-making process that led to their application.
 - ✓ Demonstrate a genuine understanding of their chosen course, institution and future plans.
 - ✗ Students should not attempt to memorise responses. Interviewers are seeking to understand the reasoning behind a student's decisions and their preparedness for study in the UK.
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Credibility Interview FAQs

Credibility interviews are part of the Student Visa process. Once you have submitted your visa application you may be called to an interview to answer questions from an Entry Clearance Officer about your prospective studies in the UK. The interview is conducted in English and can take approximately 30 - 60 minutes.



What is the purpose of the Credibility Interview?

The purpose of the interview is to establish if you genuinely wish to study in the UK and if your declared circumstances are genuine. During the interview, you will also be expected to demonstrate that your English Language ability is sufficient to follow your chosen course and level of study.

You should answer in your own words; do not rely on pre-prepared answers or scripts. Your answers should be personal, detailed, specific, and reflect your own experiences and reasoning.

It is good practice to have a few notes, such as short bullet points or headings of the key points you want to make to prove that you are a genuine student. At the end of some questions and at the end of the whole interview, you will be asked “do you have anything to add?” and at those times, you should check your list and raise any points that you may have forgotten to mention. The interview is your opportunity, please ensure that you fully explain your rationale and decisions.



Who will be interviewed?

All applicants who are applying for a Student Visa both overseas and inside the UK may be interviewed. Attendance is mandatory. If you are invited to an interview and do not attend without a valid reason, your visa application will be automatically refused.



When will the interview take place?

Your interview is likely to take place after you enrol your biometrics at the visa application centre. If you have applied within the UK, you may be requested to attend an interview a number of days after enrolling your biometrics. After you have submitted your visa application, please ensure you are frequently checking your emails including your junk/spam folder for any updates from the UKVI.



How will I be interviewed?

It is most likely that you will be interviewed via video-call, however you may also be interviewed in person or on the telephone.



What happens once I have been interviewed?

During the interview, the interviewer will write down everything that you say and will send this record to the Entry Clearance Officer (ECO). The ECO will then decide on your visa application based on your credibility interview and all the other supporting documents you submitted with your Student Visa application.

You may be called for a second interview if the ECO needs further information and clarification on your situation. You need to be prepared to provide evidence if requested, i.e., source of income. We would recommend that you request a transcript of your interview once completed, and you also write down everything you can remember from the interview when you have finished. You should keep the record of your interview safe.