

## Genuine Student (GS) Interview Guidelines

This document aims to help you prepare for the GS interview, which is an important part of your application to study in Australia and for your visa process.

The guidelines will give you a general idea of what you might be asked during the interview, what to avoid and some useful tips. While this is a helpful guide, it is important that you also do your own research and prepare answers based on your individual profile. You may be asked additional questions during the interview, depending on your background and the documents you have provided.

Treat the interview as a friendly conversation – not as a test. We encourage you not to read out answers from notes or rely on any AI tools during the interview. Instead, take the time to carefully go through your application, documents, and information beforehand so you feel confident and well-prepared when you schedule your interview.

### 1. Reasons for choosing Australia instead of continuing studies in your home country

- Explain the research you have done on the course and your consideration for local Universities or colleges
- Justify why Australia is a better choice for you
- Demonstrate awareness of the Australian student visa conditions

**Avoid:** Generic answers like good education system, multicultural environment or [similar] weather conditions

**Tip:** Support your answer with specific comparisons between Australia and your home country. You can find detailed information about Australian student visa requirements on the Department of Home Affairs website.

### 2. Research conducted on other countries for higher studies (apart from Australia)

- Provide details of the research you have done on other study destinations
- This may include, but are not limited to:
  - Living expenses in other countries
  - Universities / institutions considered
  - Course structure
  - Tuition fees
  - Visa requirements
  - Post study work options

**Avoid:** Generic answers such as “language barrier”, “the weather is cold”, or “the country is not safe”

**Tip:** Do not just name the countries. Show a clear comparison. Talk about the countries you seriously considered and explain exactly why you chose Australia instead.

### 3. Reasons for choosing the University of Notre Dame (UNDA)

- Why you have chosen UNDA instead of other universities in Australia
- Your reasons may include, but are not limited to:
  - Campus location
  - Scholarship and fees
  - Student support services
  - Internship opportunities
  - Industry connections
  - Ranking

**Avoid:** Generic reasons like “UNDA is a good university” without any explanation. Do not copy-paste information from the University website and mentioning them without linking it to your selected course and future career goals

**Tip:** Focus on two or three factors that genuinely influenced your decision. Explain how they will personally benefit you and how they connect to your course and future plans.

### 4. Details regarding research on other institutions in Australia

- Name the other universities / institutions you researched in Australia
- Provide reasons for shortlisting and clearly explain why you did not choose these universities
- Your reason may include, but not limited to:
  - Course content

- Fees and scholarship
- Location
- Learning environment
- Graduate outcomes
- Student testimonials
- Ranking

**Avoid:** Vague answers like “this university is better” without explanation or mentioning multiple institutions/universities without clear reasoning.

**Tip:** A clear comparison shows that your final decision was well-researched and thoughtful.

## 5. Understanding your choice of course

- Explain how the course aligns with your previous qualification, experiences and future goals
- Your reasons may include, but not limited to:
  - Key subjects / modules
  - Major and / or minor subject options
  - Career outcomes
  - Any unique features or aspect of the course
  - Work – integrated learning (if applicable)
  - Professional accreditation (if applicable)

**Avoid:** Standard answers such as “small classrooms”, “good teaching quality”, or “globally recognised”

**Tip:** You are encouraged to visit the University’s website and go through the course handbook to get course specific information. Read individual unit descriptions (many are available on the university website under “Course Descriptions”)

## 6. Plans after course is completed

- You will need to talk about the companies and designation / job position you would like to apply for upon graduation
- You may explain how you intent to grow and develop a [family] business upon returning (if applicable)
- Salary expectations in the home country
- You can provide references like websites from where you have gathered information
- You can also talk about how you plan to expand your family business once you return home

**Avoid:** Do not give information regarding generic designations like HR manager, Executive, Branch Manager or a Teacher. Also, do not provide unrealistic salary expectations

**Tip:** Your job plans and salary expectations should be realistic and clearly connected to the course you will study, your work experience, and your skills.

## 7. Details regarding sponsors and finances

- Who are your sponsors?
- What is the sponsor’s occupation?
- What is the annual family income?
- What are the sources of funds?

### For onshore applicants only

## 8. Research for institution / course change and Immigration history details

- Provide your full visa history
- Give an overview of your previous CoEs.
- Give an overview of your previous academic record.
- Explain why you would like to change your institute and / or course (for example: better course alignment, provider quality etc)
- Explanation any study gaps