

A Guide to Credibility Interviews for those applying for a Student Visa

What is a Credibility Interview?

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 about your prospective studies in the UK. The interview is conducted in English.

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.

When will the interview take place?

If you have applied within the UK you may be requested to attend an interview a number of days after enrolling your biometrics.

Liverpool Hope University may also request an interview with some students prior to issuing a Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies (or CAS). This will happen once the University has received your application and the relevant documentation required to issue a firm offer to study at the University.

How will I be interviewed?

It is most likely that you will be interviewed via a video-call.

What happens once I have been interviewed?

The interview will be recorded and the recording (and transcript) will be reviewed. A decision will be made based on your credibility interview, as well as all the other supporting documents submitted with your application.

You may be called for a second interview if it is deemed necessary to ask further questions or to validate/clarify information. You need to be prepared to provide evidence if requested (such as source of income).

You are likely to be asked questions relating to the following broad topics:

1. Your intention to study in the UK.
2. Liverpool Hope University.
3. Your post-study plans and intentions.
4. Student visa requirements.
5. Financing of your study.

1. Intention to study questions:

Why do you want to study in the UK?

- You might want to talk about what you have learnt about the British education system.
- Why would you like to live and study in the UK?

How this experience will benefit you?

- What are the benefits of studying in the UK compared to your home country or other countries?

What attracts you specifically to the UK?

- How would study in the UK differ from studying in your home country?
- Why have you chosen the UK over countries such as America, Canada and Australia?

How did you choose which university to study at in the UK?

- What research did you carry out?
- Did you use an agent?
- Did you meet a Liverpool Hope University member of staff in your home country when you were looking at your options?
- Is the course that you are going to study particularly well taught at Liverpool Hope University?

Which other universities did you consider?

- Did you look at other options?
- If so, which other universities did you apply to?

Why did you choose Liverpool Hope University over other universities?

- What specifically contributed to you choosing Liverpool Hope University instead of other universities for which you may have held offers to study?

2. Liverpool Hope University Specific Questions

Where is Liverpool?

- It will be useful for you to take a look at some British websites to ensure that you know where Liverpool Hope University is, and where the city of Liverpool is located.

What facilities do you expect there to be at Liverpool Hope University?

- It will be expected that for you to know about the campus and the facilities available to students. Review our website: www.hope.ac.uk.

What attracted you to the city of Liverpool and the University?

- Again, why have you chosen to study at Liverpool Hope University?
- You may wish to consider factors such as the facilities, the location, the smaller size of the University, the vibrancy of the city, the cost of living.

What University campus will you be studying at?

- Liverpool Hope University has a number of different campus' so you need to be aware of the campus you will be taught at, further information can be found at www.hope.ac.uk.

Why did you choose to study this course and how does it relate to your previous study?

- What attracted you to study this course?
- What do you hope to achieve by studying it?
- How will it enhance the subjects that you have already studied?

How long does your course last?

- Make sure you are aware of your course details, check your offer letter, CAS statement or check the University website: www.hope.ac.uk.

How is your course assessed?

- Check the University website: www.hope.ac.uk.

How will the course you have chosen help you in your chosen career path?

- Is it a necessity to have a qualification in order to follow your career path?
- If not, how will the qualification help you?

Do you know what level your course is?

- Are you studying a Bachelors (BA or BSc), Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE), Masters (MA or MSc) or PhD?
- They could also be referring to the NQF level of your course.
- If you will be studying at Bachelors level this would be level 6.
- If you will be studying at PGCE or Masters level this would be level 7.
- If you will be studying at PhD level this would be level 8.

What qualification will you receive?

- Make sure you are aware of your course details; check your offer letter, CAS statement or check the University website: www.hope.ac.uk.

Did you consider studying any other course?

- It will be fine to say that you did, but you must then be able to justify what made you decide on your final choice.

3. Post Study Plans

What are your post-study plans?

- You will need to think about your plans for the future and what you hope to do once you have completed your studies.
- Will completing your course help you to obtain a better job, earn a higher salary or start your own business?
- You may be asked to explain in exactly what way this course will help you to achieve your goals.

Can you explain any gaps in your years of study or work?

- If there have been periods of time in which you have been working, why are you now looking to come back to study?
- Would this study benefit your current profession, or enhance your future prospects?
- Also, if there has been a gap between your previous course of study, what were you doing in this time and why are you now ready to return to study?

4. Student Visa requirements**Do you understand what your responsibilities will be as a Student Visa holder?**

- Take a look to the UKCISA website at the guidance that tells you more about protecting your Student Visa status <https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Visas-and-Immigration/Protecting-your-Student-status>

Do you know whether you are entitled to work part-time in the UK?

- Take a look at the UKCISA website, which will provide you with information about your future study in the UK. <https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Working/Student-work>.

How reliant are you on being able to work when you are in the UK?

- Will it be essential for you to work to be able to support yourself during your studies?
- If so, your visa application will be harder to approve, remember here to talk about the support that you will be receiving from your parents and/or money that you have saved in order to fund your tuition fees and living costs during your course of study.

5. Financial Questions**Who is financing your studies?**

- Are you funding your studies yourself or are your parents funding your study?
- You may be asked to discuss how you or your parents are able to fund your study, and if this is affordable to you/them based on your/their annual income?
- Remember, documents confirming their financial status will be included with your application.
- It may also be that you have received government sponsorship (from within your country). If this is the case expect to be asked questions about the funding/sponsorship.

What is the profession of your financial sponsor and what relationship are they to you?

- You may be asked what job the person who is sponsoring you has, to justify how they can continue to support you in this way.

Do you have evidence of the source of funds for your studies?

- For example, bank account statements, payslips, employment contracts, student loans, government sponsorships etc. (these documents should also have been submitted with your application).
- Guidance can be found by visiting www.gov.uk/student-visa/money.

Can you prove that this money is available for your study?

- You should already have documentation in the form of bank statements, or your parents' bank statements (with proof of their relationship to you) ready to form a part of your application.
- Are these original documents?
- Will the Home Office be able to contact the bank to verify these statements?

Would you be able to pay your tuition fees in one full amount?

- If not, what arrangements have you made to ensure that you can pay at the appropriate times?

Do you know how much accommodation will cost in the UK?

- You can find out more about university accommodation on our website www.hope.ac.uk/halls/.

Are you able to verify the genuineness of documents?

- If the Home Office contact the school, college or bank that produced the documentation submitted would the school, college or bank confirm that they are genuine?
- Do you foresee any issues in the Home Office contacting the institution? If so, have a covering letter ready that provides contact details for the institution involved.