

UKVI Credibility Interviews



What is a Credibility Interview?

As part of the Tier 4 (General) visa application process, the UKVI may ask you to undertake a Credibility Interview so that they can assess that you are a genuine student and have considered all of your options before deciding to study in the UK. They will also be using the interview to check your ability to communicate in English. If you have any difficulty hearing the questions please raise this during the interview.

Interviews will be carried out remotely via video link when you attend your visa appointment, and will be conducted in English.

You will be speaking with a UKVI staff member based in the UK and the interview will normally last around 30 minutes.

A report of the interview will then be sent to the Caseworker that is assessing your application for this to be considered alongside your other supporting documents and application form.

You can request a copy of your interview transcript, and we suggest that all students do this.

Does everyone attend an interview?

Every applicant should expect to receive a credibility interview. In some cases, you may be asked to attend more than one if the interviewer feels they need additional information.

What will I be asked?

The interview is likely to begin by asking you to confirm your personal details such as name and date of birth. You may then be asked to confirm your course title and course start date.

There are no set questions, however we suggest that you take some time to consider the following points:

Why study in the UK?

What are the benefits of living and studying in the UK compared to staying in your home county? Did you consider studying in other countries and why did you select the UK?

Why study at Heriot Watt?

Did you apply to study at more than one UK institution? Why was Heriot Watt the best option for you? Are there particular facilities at Heriot Watt that are of interest to you?

Course information

You should be able to explain why this course is of interest to you and how it relates to any previous study or work that you have done. You will be expected to provide details of the course including information about the individual modules that are on offer.

Long term plans

You should consider what the benefits are to your career in doing this course. Have you discussed with your employer if there will be increased pay or benefits following completion of the course?

Living costs and tuition fees

You should be able to explain how you will fund your course and living costs. You should know how much your tuition fees will be and be able to demonstrate sound knowledge of accommodation and travel costs in Edinburgh.

If you are receiving financial sponsorship you should have a clear understanding of how much you will receive.

If it is more expensive to study in the UK than in your home country you may be asked to explain why you have decided to incur the additional costs.

You should not rely on money from working in the UK to fund your fees or living costs.

Accommodation and living in the UK

As part of the online application process you will have been asked to enter details of the address where you are planning to stay when you are in the UK.

You may be asked questions relevant to your likely day to day routines associated with studying in the UK, such as how you plan to travel to and from the University and how far your accommodation is from the campus.

Gaps in study

If you have had gaps in your studies can you explain why you have now chosen to start studying again?

I have further questions about the process, who should I contact?

For information about the Tier 4 application process and the credibility interviews please refer to the [International Student Advice website](#).

You can also contact the team at:
ISAO@hw.ac.uk.

International Student Advice

Global Student Office

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