

Preparing for Your UKVI Credibility Interview

A Guide for International Students Coming to the UK

What is a UKVI Credibility Interview?

A UKVI credibility interview is conducted by UK Visas and Immigration to assess whether you are a genuine student who intends to study in the UK.

The interviewer will ask questions about:

- ✓ Your chosen course
- ✓ Your university or college
- ✓ Why you chose to study in the UK specifically and not any other country
- ✓ Your academic background
- ✓ Your future career plans
- ✓ How you will fund your studies
- ✓ Your knowledge of living and studying in the UK

The interview is usually done via an online video platform such as MS Teams or Zoom. Your email invitation will outline full instructions.

Before the Interview

Know Your Course

Be prepared to explain:

- The full name of your course
- The course structure including the course modules (taught courses) and research proposal (research degrees) including how learning is assessed
- Why you chose the course
- How the course relates to your previous studies
- How it supports your future career goals

Good answers will include:

Detailed knowledge of your chosen course including the modules, what you will learn in each module, any course accreditations, the way it is taught, any placement opportunities.

If studying a research degree, be able to discuss in detail your proposed research topic, the research methods you will use and the outcomes you think you might find.

Discuss a structured comparison between the course at Swansea University and courses available elsewhere and why you chose the course at Swansea University in particular.

Discuss how your course is relevant to any previous study and/or work experience you might have done, your strengths and interests within the subject area and how it will contribute towards your future career plans.

Avoid answers that:

- Make generic statements like ‘Swansea University offers ‘world class education’, is ‘high ranking with a good reputation’ or ‘I will gain essential skills towards my career goals’
- Being unable to explain specifically why you chose the course at Swansea University over other courses.
- Are vague or show limited research into other available courses options and study locations

Research Your University

Make sure you know:

- Campus location
- Length of course
- Start and end dates
- Facilities available and methods of teaching
- Why you selected this institution and what research you did to make this decision

Good answers will include:

Comparison between multiple universities, the specific academic content or outcome for each course considered.

Mention any special teaching facilities or accreditation available at Swansea University that you cannot get elsewhere.

Awareness of the university's location, what facilities are available on campus such as accommodation, sports facilities, libraries etc.

Avoid answers that:

- Make general statements like 'the university has excellent facilities'
- Lack knowledge of and comparison with other universities and courses available.

Research undertaken when deciding to study overseas

Make sure you can explain:

- Which specific sources of information you used when researching study destinations and courses
- What information you gained from those sources
- How your research influenced your decision to study in the UK and at Swansea University

Good answers will include:

Mentioning a wide range of information sources used in your research.

Details of the different non-UK countries and universities that you considered, how they compared to what was on offer in the UK.

Avoid answers that:

- Make generic statements like 'the UK has a good education system'
- Indicate you chose Swansea University solely on the basis of an agent
- Show only limited comparison between different countries and universities
- Don't explain specific reasons why you selected the UK over and above other options

Future career plans

You should be able to explain:

- Your career aspirations and professional objectives for after you graduate

- Industries and employment sectors that interest you
- How your previous study, study at Swansea University will help you achieve your future career goals and objectives
- Explain how study relates to any previous work experience or if changing career direction, your motivation for the change.
- Explain any gaps in study/employment or any change of career

Good answers will include:

Identifying specific career pathways you wish to pursue after having completed the course.

Showing an understanding of specific job roles, responsibilities and/or companies you would like to work in.

Linking specific elements of the Swansea University course content to the skills required for your chosen future profession and how it will support your future career aspirations.

Avoid answers that:

- Make vague statements like 'I want to find a good job'
- Show a lack of research of chosen industries, sectors or job roles
- Don't explain how the course content or delivery will help you gain the necessary skills to achieve your career goals
- Show unrealistic expectations

Understand Your Finances

You should know:

- Tuition fee amount
- How much has already been paid
- Living cost estimates
- Evidence of financial support and the source of the money

Possible funders include:

- Yourself

- Parents
- Sponsor
- Government scholarship

Be confident when explaining how your studies will be financed, the source of the funds and be ready to explain why you are choosing to invest money into studying in the UK.

Interview Tips

DO

- ✓ **Answer honestly**
 - ✓ **Listen carefully and understand the question before responding**
 - ✓ **Speak clearly and confidently**
 - ✓ **Keep answers relevant**
 - ✓ **Review your application and CAS before the interview**
 - ✓ **Ensure your answers match the information in your visa application**
 - ✓ **Remain calm and professional**
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DON'T

- ✗ **Memorise scripted answers word-for-word**
- ✗ **Give contradictory information**
- ✗ **Provide false information**
- ✗ **Allow someone else to answer for you**
- ✗ **Guess if you do not know an answer**
- ✗ **Become argumentative or over emotional**