

Credibility Interviews

As part of your Student Visa application, you are very likely to be required to attend an interview. The interview will be carried out by Home Office UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) service staff and is usually done via video link. The interview will take place at the visa application centre when you go to give your biometric information. The interviewer will make a report and send it the Entry Clearance Officer who is the person who will make a decision about your Student Visa application.

Some important things to remember

- 1) Most important—don't worry! The purpose of the interview is to check that you are a genuine student. Therefore, as a genuine student who has prepared for the interview, you have nothing to worry about.
- 2) The UKVI plan to interview most Student Visa applicants before granting their visa. They will usually email you if you are required to go for an interview. If you are asked to attend an interview but do not go, then your visa application will be refused. Therefore it is very important that you keep an eye on your email, including your spam/junk folder.
- 3) You should answer the questions truthfully. Don't try to make something up to make it sound 'better'. If the interviewer thinks that you have said or done something that isn't true, your visa application will be refused. It could also affect any future UK visa applications.
- 4) The interviewer will also be checking that your English Language ability matches your qualifications and/or meets requirements. If there are any technical or audio problems during the interview, make sure that you tell the interviewer so they know it is a technical problem and not your own comprehension ability.

What happens on interview day?

The interview will be in English, via video link with a UKVI member of staff based in the UK. It usually takes around 15-20 mins.

How can I prepare for my interview?

Most of the questions will be about your new course, Bangor University and your past and future education and career plans. Therefore it is essential that you remember and research important details. We don't know exactly what questions you will be asked on the day; however we have made a list of questions based on previous student experience.

- Read through the **example questions** on this sheet and plan your own answers.
- You can also find some **useful videos** online that will give you an idea of what to expect. Here are some examples:

Credibility interview—well prepared student:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZyHaJwEbht8>

Credibility interview—student is not prepared:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LVjxDXr6Xzw>

This information is to be used as a guide only. It does not provide all of the answers. You will need to prepare for the interview yourself, do your own research and think about your own answers.

Credibility interviews - Example questions

Why do you want to study in the UK?

What have you heard about the education system in the UK?

How will studying in the UK benefit you?

How would study in the UK be different to studying in your home country?

Why the UK, not another country, e.g. USA?

Why did you choose Bangor University?

What research have you done to help you choose?

How did you hear about Bangor University?

How big is Bangor University?

What is the reputation/ranking of Bangor University?

Did you consider any other universities?

Do you know anyone else who has studied at Bangor?

Where is Bangor and how will you get there?

Where is the nearest airport to Bangor?

How long will it take to get to Bangor?

Questions about your course

Did you consider any other courses? If yes, why did you decide this one as your final choice?

How long is the course? Is there an option to extend, e.g. placement or study abroad?

What module options are there?

What is the level of your course? (Check your CAS)

How will this course help with your future plans?

How does this course fit in with your previous qualifications and experience?

Does the course offer professional qualifications?

How is your course assessed? E.g. exams, coursework?

Is this course available in your home country? If yes, why choose the UK?

Is there a dissertation? Fieldwork? Lab work?

What is your course start date?

What type of job will you be able to do afterwards?

Life in Bangor

What are your accommodation options in Bangor?

Which option do you think you will choose?

What facilities are available at Bangor University? E.g. sports, theatre, social activities etc.

Some useful links to help you with your research:

<https://www.bangor.ac.uk/studentlife/social>

<https://www.bangor.ac.uk/international/support> (see 'Welfare & Advice' and 'New students might like to see')

<http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/>

<http://www.educationuk.org/global/>

<https://www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa>

About your finances

How much are your course fees?

If the course is available for less in your home country, why pay extra to study in the UK?

How will you fund your time in the UK?

Who will be paying your course fees?

How are you/your parent's able to afford this?

Do you know the cost of living in the UK?

How much will your accommodation cost?

How much money will you need for general living expenses?

These questions are to check that you can genuinely afford to pay for your studies for the whole length of your course. Think about the advantages of studying in the UK and why you are prepared to make the investment. You need to give very clear, complete answers about your financial situation.

Working during your studies

Do you plan to get a job in the UK?

If yes, how much do you expect to get paid?

Do you know how many hours you are allowed to work?

You should not rely on getting a job to fund your course fees and living costs. Your reason for coming to the UK is to study, so if you do hope to work, you should think about how this would help your studies/academic career.

Your future plans and career

What do you hope to do after you finish your course?

Do you plan to stay in Bangor or elsewhere in the UK after your studies?

What are your career plans?

Do you plan to progress to Master's, PhD etc.?

How much do you expect to earn after you graduate?

Other questions

Do you have any relatives who live in the UK?

Can you explain any gaps in your study or work history?

If you have not studied recently, why are you returning to study now?

Do you work in your home country? How does your study relate to your job?

What will you do during the holidays?