



# Tier 4 Credibility Interviews

## WHAT IS A CREDIBILITY INTERVIEW?



Before making a decision to grant someone leave to enter the UK, UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) interview all potential students to ensure they have a genuine intention to study.

All interviews are conducted in English and normally via video link.

## DO I NEED TO PREPARE?



You should already know why you wish to study at the University of Salford but for many students it may be the first time you have been interviewed by a government official and for some, this can be a nervous experience.

The best way to combat your nerves is to ensure you prepare for your interview beforehand and provide honest answers.

## WHAT AREAS WILL THE CREDIBILITY INTERVIEW COVER?



You are likely to be asked a series of questions in relation to a number of areas. They will ask questions in key areas you will be in relation to:

- Your career aspirations
- Information about your course of study
- Information in relation to your funding
- Your understanding of the rules and regulations for your Tier 4 Visa
- Your living arrangements and the University's location
- Your personal life and your family history

All of this information should have been part of your initial research and should have informed your decision to study at the University of Salford. The information won't be new to you, but you may wish to go back to your original research in order to be prepared for the interview.



## CAREER ASPIRATIONS



You are likely to be asked about your career goals. Your study options should match your overall career goals and aspirations. Your course may also give you a deeper specialisation in a particular subject area which may help you achieve your long term ambitions. You may also be asked to provide information about any gaps in your employment or study history.

## YOUR FUNDING



You may be asked questions to assess if the way you fund your studies and living costs is sustainable throughout your time in the UK. For some students part time work helps but as an international student you should not rely on this as a sustainable income source. UKVI will expect you to be able to have funds available throughout the whole of your stay in the UK. You may also be asked to explain the source of your funds.

## YOUR LIVING ARRANGEMENTS?



Be sure you understand where the University is located within the UK, where you are living and the proximity of the University to where you intend to live. Information about the University is published on [our website](#). The Home Office expect you to have a UK address as part of the conditions of your Tier 4 visa. You should have also detailed your intended UK address on your visa application. It is advisable to find accommodation in close proximity to the University. If you have to travel for more than 2 hours a day to get to university then this isn't ideal. You may need to rush to University to hand in an assignment because of an unforeseen event or attend an appointment before a specified deadline.

## YOUR COURSE



You may be asked to provide specific information regarding your chosen course of study. You should have researched all of this information prior to applying for a course of study in the UK and before you accepted an offer at the University. However, there may be some additional information that you need to think about before you attend your interview.

## YOUR PERSONAL LIFE



Your visa will be issued on the basis that you have a genuine intention to study and an intention to return home once you have completed your study. If you have family or personal ties to the UK, these should not be your primary reason for coming to the UK if you are applying for entry clearance under Tier 4. You may be required to demonstrate that there are no reasons for you to permanently settle in the UK by answering questions surrounding your life back home.

## TIER 4 RULES & REGULATIONS



You may be asked some questions to ensure you understand the responsibilities that come with holding a Tier 4 visa as part of UKVI's assessment that you are a genuine student. Many of the responsibilities that you will have as a Tier 4 student are listed in the [Tier 4 Policy Guidance](#). You may also wish to review what the University of Salford expects of you whilst you are here by visiting [our website](#). You may also be asked questions in relation to your previous immigration history so you should be open and honest on your visa application form and in your credibility interview. If you have previously been refused, be clear about why you have applied for the visa you were refused for and make sure you have an understanding as to why you were refused.



**WHAT QUESTIONS AM I LIKELY TO BE ASKED?**

**How do your studies fit into your career plans?**

Whilst you are preparing for your interview, you should consider the following:

- What do I wish to do after studying my course?
- How does this course fit with my career objectives?
- Will the course I wish to study enable me to compete within the working environment?

**Why did you choose the University of Salford?**

The University may have been recommended to you by a friend, family member or even an agent. However you should have made an informed decision to come here by yourself. Be clear about how you found the University and why you chose to study here.

**How will you fund your studies?**

How you fund your studies is one of the vital things you need to consider whilst you are studying with us. Whilst there are minimum requirements you must meet with your visa application, you may need to consider if the funds available to you are sustainable and you should be able to explain where you have sourced them from.

**What ties do you have to your home country?**

You should be able to demonstrate that there are no reasons for you to permanently settle in the UK by answering questions surrounding your life back home. If you have children and you are bringing them with you, then also be prepared to answer questions about their care and education whilst you are studying and make sure you have included them on your application

**Where do you plan to live?**

Be sure to have an understanding of where you are living and where this is in relation to the University campus. If you have not yet arranged accommodation it is vital you do so before you arrive at the University.

**You have previously overstayed. Why was this the case?**

If you have previously had a refusal, your visa was been curtailed or you have overstayed on your leave, you should understand the reasons why and be able to explain this to the entry clearance officer if asked. It is vital, where you have not already informed the University of Salford, that you speak to a member of the compliance team if any of these issues affect you.



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## Additional Resources

As part of the #weareinternational campaign, the University of Sheffield in conjunction with a number of Universities across the UK have produced two videos about the visa application process in China and India. You can access those via the links below:

<http://www.weareinternational.org.uk/campaigns/>

You can also access the University of Salford's Visa and Immigration website where there is a number of additional resources by visiting the link below. It is also advisable to review this website **before** you attend your credibility interview:

## Contact Us



The University's Admissions team is responsible for any issues surrounding your CAS. Ensure you check it before you use it in an application and that you advise the admissions of any errors before submitting your application online.

If you are a new student and your visa application is refused you are advised to take the following actions:

- Email your visa refusal to [Salford-CAS@salford.ac.uk](mailto:Salford-CAS@salford.ac.uk)
- Provide the supporting documents you submitted with your visa application with your refusal
- If your visa application is refused on the grounds of credibility, provide permission in the body of your email for the University to request the transcript of your interview

You can also contact the admissions team on +44 (0) 161 295 4493.

The University's Home Office Compliance Team is responsible for Visa advice and support. If you have any further questions in relation to your visa application and arriving at the University of Salford. They also provide information in relation to:

- ATAS
- Sponsor Compliance
- Attendance Monitoring

You can contact them using the relevant method below:

☎ (0) 161 295 0023. Please select option 3 and then option 3 to speak to the appropriate member of staff

@ [HomeOfficeCompliance@salford.ac.uk](mailto:HomeOfficeCompliance@salford.ac.uk)