Pre-Mock Interview Questionnaire

University CAS Interview Preparation

Type in the shaded boxes. Save your completed PDF before returning it to your WSA counsellor.

Full name	
University	
Full course title	
Course start date	
Interview date, if known	
Interview time and time zone, if known	
Interview purpose	

Purpose of the interview

The university checks your understanding of your study plans before deciding whether to issue a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies or CAS. Confirm the actual purpose and format from its CAS Shield invitation. CAS Shield is the platform; the university makes the CAS decision. This is separate from a UKVI interview. If scholarship selection is also included, use PMIQ 06 for the award elements.

How to prepare

Before your mock, use the podcasts below. Follow your university's deadline, recording instructions, time limits and permitted attempts. Review your offer, official course information, submitted application and financial evidence. Record your research sources. Test your camera, microphone and connection. Practise unexpected questions independently, without scripts or prompting. Listen, answer directly and use a clear point and example, then stop. Look towards the camera naturally. Follow the actual platform instructions if a question is unclear. Practice questions may differ from the assessment.

Interview questions

01. Tell us about your education and relevant work experience. Explain your own responsibilities and how they prepared you for this course. Check that dates, qualifications and duties match your submitted documents.

02. Why the UK rather than your home country or another destination? Compare genuine study options, course content, teaching, practical opportunities, duration and costs. Explain the academic benefits for your own goals rather than relying on general claims about quality or affordability.

03. Why did you choose this university and course? Give one specific strength of the department and one feature of the course, such as a module or practical learning opportunity. Explain how these support your goals and name the university sources you used.

04. What is your exact course title, campus, intake, start date and duration? Explain the course structure and any conditions in your offer. Check these details against the official programme and your documents.

05. Explain two modules in your own words: what would you learn, how would you be assessed and how would you apply it? Use official descriptions rather than guessing from titles. For research courses, explain the project, methods, supervision and training instead.

06. Why this course at this stage? Identify the skills you need and a real problem they would help you address. Explain how it builds on previous study or work, including any gap, change of subject or alternative qualification you considered.

07. What role do you intend to pursue after the course? Explain its responsibilities, likely employers or sector and realistic next steps. Link two course skills to that work. If planning a business or organisation, explain how you would begin. Distinguish plans from confirmed opportunities.

08. What are your total tuition fees, confirmed discounts, payments made and balance due? Explain payment deadlines and the evidence supporting the figures. Treat any proposed scholarship as unconfirmed until written confirmation.

09. Who is funding your fees and living costs? Explain the source and availability of funds, any sponsor's relationship to you, regular family support and significant deposits. What evidence supports this? Raise unexplained transactions or discrepancies with your counsellor.

10. Where do you plan to live? Explain the location, rent, deposit, bills and journey to campus. Identify the source of your figures and distinguish researched options from a confirmed booking.

11. What is your realistic budget for accommodation, food, transport and other essentials? Explain how you calculated it, who will pay and how you would cover unexpected expenses or a funding shortfall.

12. How will you fund study without relying on UK employment? What work conditions have you checked for your intended visa and course, using current official information? Explain how you would balance permitted work with study, if relevant.

13. What is your overseas study and immigration history, including refusals? Explain accurately and consistently with your documents. Have you received any request for further evidence or notice of a change to your offer? What action have you taken through your counsellor?

14. Will any family members accompany you? Explain your actual plans, their funding and the eligibility requirements you have checked. Distinguish confirmed arrangements from intentions.

15. What do you understand about attendance, academic engagement and your responsibilities as an international student? Explain how you would manage deadlines, seek support and report a change in circumstances.

16. Where is your university ranked, if listed? Give the source and year. You may also mention a relevant subject or course ranking. Explain one limitation and how the ranking informed your choice alongside course fit.

17. Which universities in your home country did you genuinely consider for comparable study? Name the institutions and programmes, explain the similarities and differences, and why your chosen university better meets your academic or career objectives.

18. How would you manage your physical health, mental wellbeing and study workload while studying? Describe practical habits, sources of support and what you would do if you needed help. You do not need to disclose private medical information.

19. Do you think people will travel more or less in the future? Give a balanced answer based on two relevant factors, such as technology, costs, climate, work or global events. Explain your reasoning rather than trying to guess a “correct” answer.

20. If the interviewer asks a question you have never practised, how will you listen, answer in your own words and avoid speculation about university or visa facts?

Ranking references (check the latest edition and whether your institution is listed):
QS World University Rankings: https://www.topuniversities.com/world-university-rankings
Times Higher Education World University Rankings:
https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings

Use genuine plans and accurate figures. Expect follow up questions such as “Why?”, “Give an example” and “Explain that more simply”. Explain uncertainties honestly and raise document errors with your counsellor. A completed PMIQ does not confirm that your documents are ready. Follow the university’s instructions for the assessment.

Podcasts to use before your mock interview

Open the links in the WSA Student Support Library. Listen and read or download the summaries before completing your notes.

WSA 024 CAS Shield

https://www.worldstudentadvisors.com/student-support-library/cas-shield

Prepare for the CAS Shield stage. Follow your own university's instructions for the interview format and permitted attempts.

WSA 023 CAS and UKVI Credibility Interview

https://www.worldstudentadvisors.com/student-support-library/cas-and-ukvi-credibility-interview

Practise explaining your study choices, finances and future plans. Keep the university CAS stage and any later UKVI interview distinct.

WSA 026 UK University Credibility Interview

https://www.worldstudentadvisors.com/student-support-library/uk-university-credibility-interview

Review how to explain your university, course and career choices clearly and independently.

Podcasts for visa and practical preparation

Use these resources to prepare your financial and accommodation answers. Note any questions for your counsellor before the mock.

WSA 025 UK Student Visa Essentials

https://www.worldstudentadvisors.com/student-support-library/uk-student-visa-essentials

Review the visa stage and the responsibilities you need to understand. Check current requirements for your own circumstances with your counsellor.

WSA 032 Student Accommodation

https://www.worldstudentadvisors.com/student-support-library/student-accommodation

Research realistic housing options, rent, deposits, bills and travel to campus. Explain what is confirmed and what remains to be arranged.

WSA 002 Cost of Studying Abroad

https://www.worldstudentadvisors.com/student-support-library/cost-of-studying-abroad

Prepare accurate tuition and living cost figures. Explain your funding source and how you will meet the remaining costs.

Before your mock, check that you can explain your course, career plans, tuition balance, funding evidence, accommodation and living budget without reading a script.