Pre-Mock Interview Questionnaire

Student Visa 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

UK Visas and Immigration assesses whether you are a genuine student as part of your Student visa application. Prepare to explain your study choices, background, finances and future plans clearly in your own words. This is separate from a university credibility interview. Use this form for Student visa preparation, not visitor applications. Interview preparation does not replace checks on CAS status and supporting evidence.

How to prepare

Check your UKVI invitation for the date, time zone, platform and joining instructions.
Have a form of ID to hand. The interviewer will ask you to confirm your identity before the interview.
For a video interview, test your webcam, microphone and internet connection. Follow the joining time in your invitation. If it asks you to join ten minutes early, allow time to set up before then.
Review your CAS, visa application, supporting evidence and official course information. Use the podcasts below and note your research sources. Practise follow up questions in your own words.
Answer directly, give a genuine example where relevant and ask if a question is unclear.

Interview questions

01. Tell us about your education and relevant work experience. Explain your own responsibilities and how these prepared you for this course. Check qualification titles, dates and duties against 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 their relevance to your academic and career goals, beyond 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 and end date and duration? Explain the course structure. Check that your answers match your CAS and official course information; raise discrepancies with your counsellor.

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

06. Why this course now? Identify skills you need and a real problem they could help you address. Explain progression from your previous study or work, any gaps or change of subject and any alternative qualification you considered.

07. What are your actual plans after the course? Explain an intended role, 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 intentions from confirmed opportunities.

08. What are your tuition fees, confirmed discounts, payments made and balance due? Explain deadlines and how the figures match your CAS, award confirmation and payment evidence. Do not count an unconfirmed scholarship as secured.

09. Who is funding you? Explain the source and availability of funds, any sponsor's relationship to you, regular family support and significant deposits. Identify the evidence submitted and raise unexplained transactions or inconsistencies with your counsellor.

10. What is your realistic budget for rent, bills, food, travel and other essentials? Explain the sources of your figures, who will pay and how you would cover unexpected costs or a funding shortfall.

11. Where will you live, what will it cost and how will you travel to campus? Explain location, rent, deposit, bills and journey. Distinguish researched options from a confirmed booking.

12. How will you fund your studies without relying on UK employment? What work restrictions have you checked for your intended visa and course using current official guidance? Explain how you would keep study as your priority.

13. What is your immigration history, including visas, refusals and any breaches of conditions? Explain it accurately and consistently with your application. What has changed since any previous refusal, and what evidence supports this?

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 your Student visa conditions, study and attendance responsibilities? How would you manage academic demands, seek support and report a change in circumstances?

16. Has the university changed or withdrawn your offer or CAS? Have UKVI or the university requested further documents or raised a financial verification issue? Explain the notice, deadline, action taken and anything unresolved. Ask your counsellor to check the current position; do not assume an interview answer resolves a document problem.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. If an interviewer asks about a discrepancy between your answer and your visa application or CAS, how would you clarify it accurately without guessing or changing your account?

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

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 023 CAS and UKVI Credibility Interview

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

Prepare to explain your study choices, finances and future plans. Review your own visa application and the evidence submitted.

WSA 025 UK Student Visa Essentials

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

Review the visa stage and your responsibilities. Check current requirements for your circumstances with your counsellor and official guidance.

WSA 006 Working While Studying

https://www.worldstudentadvisors.com/student-support-library/working-while-studying

Prepare to explain the work restrictions relevant to your course and visa. Your study budget should be supported by your actual funding arrangements.

Podcasts for accommodation and funding

Use these resources to prepare practical answers based on your actual accommodation research, budget and financial evidence.

WSA 032 Student Accommodation

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

Research rent, deposits, bills and travel to campus. Be clear about your chosen location and whether accommodation is confirmed.

WSA 002 Cost of Studying Abroad

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

Prepare your tuition balance and realistic living budget. Explain your funding source, available funds and how you will cover unexpected expenses.

Check that your answers reflect your real circumstances and match the submitted application and supporting documents. Distinguish confirmed arrangements from estimates. Tell your counsellor about discrepancies, CAS changes, financial verification difficulties or outstanding requests. The counsellor must check document readiness separately from interview readiness. Do not invent explanations or alter application history silently.

Practise without a script and expect questions in a different order. Be ready for “Why?”, “Give an example” and “Explain that more simply”. If a question is unclear, ask for it to be repeated or explained. Check current official requirements with your counsellor rather than memorising outdated rules or cost figures.