



Information about credibility interviews

To ensure that only genuine students are granted visas to study in the UK, the United Kingdom Visas & Immigration Office (UKVI) undertakes routine 'credibility interviews'. At Regent's University London we are confident that our students are genuine, but as a matter of routine procedure you may be asked by the UKVI to attend an interview to help them understand your motivations for studying in the UK. If you fail a credibility test, the UKVI may refuse your Tier 4 visa application, so we want to support you through this process to ensure you obtain your visa to study in the UK. Please read the advice in this guide carefully.

Who will be interviewed?

In many countries, visa applicants are already called to attend an interview about their visa application. Interviews by the UKVI generally focus on Tier 4 student visas and visitor applications, although any applicant may be called for interview.

How will it affect me?

If you are applying for a Tier 4 visa from outside of the UK you can expect to receive a short credibility interview at the beginning of the application process which will be conducted via Skype with a Home Office employee in the UK. The process should take around 15-20 minutes during which time you will be asked a series of mandatory questions and have your answers transcribed.

What will the interviewer ask me?

The interviewer will ask you straightforward questions about your application and proposed study in the UK. You will need to think carefully about the following questions and prepare thoroughly for the interview. Please note this list is not exhaustive:

Q: Why did you choose Regent's University London?

Think about why you chose the UK rather than your home country, other English-speaking country or country which other students of your nationality choose to study in. You may find it useful to refer to information about Regent's University London. Think about what attracted you to study at Regent's.
www.regents.ac.uk/about

Q: Why did you choose your programme?

There may be many programmes in the same subject area as the one you plan to study at Regent's. What is it specifically about the programme you have chosen which you prefer? You may find it useful to look at your programme of study again on the Regent's website?
www.regents.ac.uk/study/undergraduate-study/programmes
www.regents.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-study/programmes

Q: How do your studies fit into your career plans?

Think about what your plans are after you graduate – how will the knowledge and skills you gain from your programme of study help you with the type of work you hope to do? Will your studies lead to any professional exemptions or qualifications and are these recognised in your country? Do you know what others graduating from the programme you will be following went on to do? If the programme you plan to study is at a similar academic level to previous studies, be prepared to explain how it represents progression.

Q: If the costs of pursuing your chosen programme of study are higher in the UK than in your home country, why have you decided to incur the extra costs involved with studying in the UK?

Think about the advantages that a degree from the UK might give you and why you and/or your family are prepared to make this investment. Have you made a realistic assessment of all the costs involved and how you plan to pay for them? You should note that these costs include accommodation and costs of living.

ABOUT THE STUDENT IMMIGRATION ADVISORY SERVICE

The Student Immigration Advisory Service at Regent's University London offers a free service to all current and potential students in relation to student immigration and visa services. Our integrated service covers Tier 4 applications, Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies (CAS) processing, and work options after study.

Our staff are regulated to give immigration advice under guidelines from the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner, an independent organisation that monitors immigration advice and services in the UK. Email us for more information:
visas@regents.ac.uk

Q: You have previously studied in the UK, why have you chosen to return?

If relevant, think about how the new programme relates to previous studies and how it might build on your previous learning.

Q: You have had a long break in your studies, why are you returning to study now?

If relevant, think about how you explain your decision in the context of your long-term career plan.

Q: Do you plan to work in the UK?

You cannot rely on funds from working to pay your tuition fees and living costs, so you need to be aware of this. Your main purpose for being in the UK is to study, so if you do hope to work, think about how this would enhance your academic studies. You also need to demonstrate an understanding of the hours you are allowed to work (maximum of 20 hours per week) and typical rates of pay.

The interviewer will also be checking your ability to converse well in English. If there is any issue with hearing them clearly e.g. via the video link, it is important that you raise this so that the interviewer is aware that it is a technical issue, not one of comprehension.

How will the interview be conducted?

The interview will usually be held over video conference. You will be asked questions by a UKVI official on-screen. The interview will be conducted in English. The answers you provide during the interview will form part of the evidence considered in making a decision on your visa application.

Can I bring someone with me for the interview?

No, only the applicant can attend the interview. Reasonable adjustments will be made for disabled applicants to attend an interview.

Following your interview we would welcome any feedback you think might be useful for us and other students to know. Please email us on visas@regents.ac.uk with 'Credibility Interview Feedback' as the subject title.