



## **Credibility Visa Interview Preparation**

### **How to prepare the questions?**

The following content source from the University of Sheffield, UK but can be used for any university or country.

Typical questions may include:

#### **Q: Why did you choose The University of Sheffield?**

Answer preparation: 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 the university profile on our website.

#### **Q: Why did you choose your course?**

Answer preparation: There may be many courses in the same subject area as the one you plan to study at Sheffield. What is it specifically about the Sheffield course which you prefer and which suits you over other course choices? Think about your decision process. Did you apply for other courses - why did you choose Sheffield over them?

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

Answer preparation: Think about what your plans are after you graduate - how will the knowledge and skills you gain from your course at Sheffield University help you with the type of work you hope to do. Does your course lead to any professional exemptions or qualifications and are these recognised in your country? Do you know what others graduating from the course you will be following went on to do eg the types of roles and organisations they work for? If the course you plan to study is at a similar academic level to previous studies, how does it represent progression and does it have a vocational focus? If this is the case, be prepared to explain this.

#### **Q: If the costs of pursuing your course 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?**

Answer preparation: 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? These costs include the course fees and living costs, including accommodation.

#### **Q: You have previously studied in the UK - why have you chosen to return?**

Answer preparation: Think about how the new course relates to previous studies and how it might build on your previous learning. You can also talk about the benefits of your previous course.

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

Answer preparation: Think about how you explain your decision in the context of your long-term career plans (we also have a separate credibility interview sheet to help students who have a study gap)

**Q: Do you plan to work in the UK?**

Answer preparation: You cannot rely on funds from working to pay your course fees and living costs so you need to be aware of this. The main purpose for being in the UK is your studies, 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 and typical rates of pay.

**Q: How will you fund your studies? (you should not be asked this unless you are called back for a second interview)**

Answer preparation: The purpose of this question is to check that your funds are genuinely available to you for your studies. As part of your application you will have submitted proof of your finances - ensure that you are very clear about the source and availability of these funds, also how you plan to pay for subsequent years fees if your course is more than a year in duration. If you have official financial sponsorship make sure you are aware of the amounts and exactly what is covered. If you have a loan, how will you afford to pay this back? How much will your accommodation cost and are you clear about the cost of living in the UK?

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

## **Credibility Interview Questions and Answers**

Here are a few examples of questions and what a good answer should be. Go ahead and practice answers for all the above questions as well as the given Q and A below.

**Q. Why do you want to study in the UK rather than your home country or another country?**

**Bad answer:** *“I heard the UK is a nice place, and people are friendly. I can speak English there. I always wanted to see London, and I like Premier League football. Also, in my country, job opportunities for graduates are limited.”*

**Good answer:** *“I’m studying engineering, and the UK has a strong reputation for excellence in teaching engineering degrees. Once I graduate, I should be able to get a good job back in my home country and have a strong future because of my UK degree. I have a longstanding interest in British culture, and I’m really interested in seeing the galleries and museums in the UK.”*

**The difference:** The first answer is far too generic. The final sentence contains a big red flag: *“In my country, job opportunities are limited for graduates.”* It implies that the student may want to remain in

the UK after graduating. On the other hand, the second response focuses on the specific course and how it will help the student land a good job back in their home country.

### **Q. Why this specific university over other options?**

**Bad answer:** *“My cousin went to this university, and he said it was good.”*

**Good answer:** *“This university is well-known in my country, and its reputation will help me get a great job when I return. The degree subject has a good national ranking, and the university has a strong reputation for teaching. I looked at other universities [provide the names], but the course modules they offer aren’t as helpful for my future goals.”*

**The difference:** It’s common for students to say that they know someone who studies at the university, which is why they want to study there. Instead, talk about the university’s reputation and how studying there will help set you up for future success. Also, be specific about why this university was more suitable than others you considered.

### **Q. What will you do after completing your studies in the UK?**

**Bad answer:** *“I will try and see if there is a job I can get in the UK as I don’t want to return to my home country.”*

**Good answer:** *“I am studying business, and I want to work for a large multinational such as [name(s)]. One of the units in my course is on Business Analytics. I want to get a job as a business analyst when I get back to my home country. The salary for this position is approximately £1,200 per month, whereas a regular graduate role pays about £700 per month.”*

**The difference:** Again, the first answer implies that the student wants to remain and work in the UK after graduating. The second response specifically mentions a large multinational back in their home country where the student envisions themselves working, how their course will help them obtain a specific job, and how much it pays.

### **Q. What have you been doing during your study gap?**

**Bad answer:** *“I’ve been looking for a job, but I haven’t found one, so I’ve been staying at home. Now I’ve decided to study abroad.”*

**Good answer:** *“I have been working in an entry-level role in a bank since graduating. But, I feel that I will advance further in the industry if I get a degree from the UK, and that is why I want to study there. When I graduate, I hope to return to the same company and get a promotion.”*

**The difference:** In the first answer, the student cannot provide a satisfactory explanation for how they spent their study gap, and the university may have reason to suspect that the student will remain in the UK after graduating. The second answer demonstrates the professional experience the student gained

during their study gap. It also shows that they have done considerable research into the program and how studying in the UK aligns with their professional goals back in their home country.

**Q. What are the facilities at the university, and what is the university's ranking?**

**Bad answer:** *"The facilities are good, and the ranking is high. It's much better than the university in my hometown. I'm looking forward to seeing the facilities when I arrive."*

**Good answer:** *"The university is ranked at number 20 in The Guardian university league tables and in the top 50 in the Times Higher Education league tables. Also, the business school where I will study is accredited by the AACSB, EQUIS, and AAMBA, making it one of the best in the UK. They have recently invested £25 million in upgrading their facilities and have improved the library and sports halls. Now they have received five stars from QS ranking for their facilities."*

**The difference:** As you can see, the second response is much more detailed and specific about the university's rankings and facilities. You can often find this