

## Student interviews at visa application centres – frequently asked questions

### 1. Who will be interviewed?

In many countries, visa applicants are already called to attend an interview about their visa application. The expansion of the interview programme by UK Visas and immigration will focus particularly on the Tier 4 student visa route and visitor and settlement applications, although any applicant may be called for interview.

We will **not** routinely interview Tier 4 students who are nationals of the low risk countries listed in Appendix H of the Immigration Rules, who already benefit from a streamlined visa application process. These countries are currently: Argentina, Australia, Botswana, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Trinidad and Tobago, USA, plus British National (overseas), Hong Kong and Taiwan passport holders.

Tier 4 students applying from any other country should expect to be interviewed.

### 2. How will it affect me?

Applicants applying under the Tier 4 category, other than in a country identified as low risk in the Immigration Rules, should expect to attend a short interview when you attend the Visa Application Centre to submit your application and biometrics.

### 3. What will the interviewer ask me?

The interviewer will ask you straightforward questions about your application and proposed study in the UK.

### 4. How will the interview be conducted?

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

### 5. Will my English language skills be assessed?

The interviewer will ask questions about the applicant's proposed study in the UK. The interview will be conducted in English and provide assurance that the English language requirements of the Tier 4 rules are met.

### 6. How long will this interview take?

Interviews conducted at the time of application will take approximately 10 minutes, depending on the circumstances of the applicant.

**7. Will I need to attend a second interview?**

Following the first interview, your case will be assessed by a Visa Officer. If the Visa Officer considers that further information is required, they may call you to attend a second interview.

**8. Will you ask me different questions from my first interview?**

The second interview will go into further details about the specifics of your visa application.

**9. Will my second interview be conducted by video conference?**

Where possible these interviews will be face to face, but they may be conducted via video conference or telephone.

**10. What if the video conference equipment breaks down?**

There will be staff on hand at the Visa Application Centre to help with this. If the equipment does not work on the day of your interview, we will conduct the interview over telephone. Where this is not possible you may be re-called for interview.

**11. When will I know the outcome of my application?**

UK Visas and Immigration aims to meet its customer service standards, which means that we aim to process most student visa applications within 3 weeks. If an applicant is called for a second interview the decision will be made after the visa officer assesses your case.

**12. Will I have to pay more for my visa?**

The cost of the visa remains the same to the applicant, as per the published charges, whether or not an interview is required. There is no charge for any part of the interview.

**13. 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.

**14. Can I change my appointment time, or decline to attend an interview?**

Appointments may be changed but not repeatedly. Refusing to attend an interview may lead to a visa application being refused.