

# RGU Guide to Credibility Interviews

- Under UK Immigration rules, any person who makes a Student Route visa application can be interviewed as part of the visa process.
- As an approved Higher Education Provider, Robert Gordon University will assess your reasons or 'intent' to study in the UK. This is done as part of your application, using information from your statement of purpose, personal statement or other material available.
- This assessment is carried out separately from the United Kingdom Visa Immigration (UKVI) service who are responsible for the onward Student Route Visa process which may include an interview.
- There is a significant focus on this stage of the process and you should read the guidance below, prior to attending any interview, to familiarise yourself with the requirements.

## The Interview

As part of your Student Route visa application you may be required to undertake a short interview with a UKVI Official called an Entry Clearance Officer or 'ECO', after submitting your application/documents. The Government expect that this interview will be approximately 5-10 minutes long and will be conducted, in most cases, via a video link with a specialist team who are based in Sheffield, UK. The interview will focus on your reasons for choosing to study in the UK – this is known as a Credibility Interview. The interview is conducted in English and also gives an opportunity for the UKVI to be satisfied that your English language ability is at the required standard.

## The Process

A record of the interview will be taken and an ECO will include this when they consider your visa application and other supporting documents. If the ECO requires more information, they may carry out a second interview. This could be done face to face or by telephone. If you are requested to attend an interview, in whichever format, it is mandatory and failure to attend without a satisfactory explanation will result in an automatic refusal of your visa application.

## What should I prepare?

From previous experience the main areas that you may be asked questions on are:

- Your REASONS for coming to the UK
- The COURSE
- The COSTS of study, the BENEFITS and your INCOME, both now and in the future
- What your FUTURE PLANS are
- The UNIVERSITY
- The LOCAL AREA
- Any PREVIOUS STUDY you have done, particularly in the UK

## Types of questions you may be asked

Please note that these are examples only – in the interview, only a small selection of questions will be asked.

### Your REASONS for coming to the UK

Why you want to study in the UK

Why you have chosen the UK instead of your home or another English speaking country

Why you chose Robert Gordon University and what research you carried out to make this decision What other universities you considered

If you have any friends or family in the UK

### The COURSE

Why you chose the particular course

If the course was available at another University

If you considered other courses

What you will study, including some knowledge of the modules

How long the course is

How the course is assessed

What UK education level the course is set at

What qualification you will receive

### The COSTS of study, the BENEFITS and your INCOME, both now and in the future

How much it costs for the course and how you will pay for that

How much your living costs are and how you will pay for that

How much your accommodation is

If it costs more to study in the UK than at home or in another country, why you have decided to study in the UK

If someone else is paying for you, how they can afford this

How long the funds have been in your or their account

If the funds are still in the account

What are the benefits of studying in the UK instead of somewhere else

What your salary is just now and will getting the degree will lead to a salary increase

If such an increase is worth the cost of studying in the UK

### What your FUTURE PLANS are

What your future plans are

How studying the course will help you to achieve them

If you intend to work in the UK

What you intend to do when your Visa expires

If you know that you are able to work part-time in the UK while studying

### The UNIVERSITY

Where the University is located

How big the University is

How many students there are at the University

If the University offers accommodation

Which School is responsible for your course

The types of facilities you will find at the University

If you know anyone else who has studied at the University

### The LOCAL AREA

Where Aberdeen is in the UK

Where you will be living and how far this is from the University

How you will get from where you will be living to the University

How much it costs to live in the local area

If you have researched Aberdeen and what you found out about the city.

### ANY PREVIOUS STUDY you have done, particularly in the UK

Any previous course of study you completed and when that was

What you have been doing since you completed the previous study

What your previous study contributed to your career or career aspirations

If you studied in the UK previously, why you have decided to return

Justifying new study where this differs from the type of previous study

**Most visa refusals are based on credibility, many which could have had a different outcome if more preparation and research had taken place in advance of the interview. We would strongly advise you to plan, prepare and research so you feel positive and confident when attending the interview.**

## BASIC OUTLINE OF VISA AND UKVI PROCESS

