

Online Pre-CAS Credibility Interview Preparation Guide

Index

<u>1.</u>	<u>What is a UKVI credibility?</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>2.</u>	<u>What is a pre-CAS credibility interview?</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>3.</u>	<u>Who needs a pre-CAS credibility interview?</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>4.</u>	<u>How long is a pre-CAS credibility interview and how will it be conducted?</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>5.</u>	<u>When can I book a pre-CAS credibility interview?</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>6.</u>	<u>Booking a pre-CAS credibility interview appointment</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>7.</u>	<u>Preparing for interview questions</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>8.</u>	<u>English language requirement</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>9.</u>	<u>Do's and don'ts for an interview</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>10.</u>	<u>Common mistakes in answering interview questions</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>11.</u>	<u>After the pre-CAS credibility interview</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>12.</u>	<u>Get in touch with us</u>	<u>6</u>

1. What is a UKVI credibility?

- A UKVI credibility interview is part of the Student visa application process.
- The interview is conducted by a UKVI officer during the Student visa application process to assess whether or not you are a genuine applicant.
- If you are invited to the UKVI credibility interview, this will usually be immediately after enrolling your biometrics at the Visa Application Centre (VAC).
- This initial interview is usually a video interview (but it may be via the telephone) carried out at the Visa Application Centre (VAC) with a member of staff in Sheffield, UK.
- Failure to attend the UKVI credibility interview will result in a visa refusal.

2. What is a pre-CAS credibility interview?

- A pre-CAS credibility interview is an interview that Bloomsbury Institute London conducts to prepare you for your UKVI credibility Interview to reduce your chances of a UKVI credibility visa refusal.
- A pre-CAS credibility interview is also conducted to assess your intention to travel the UK to ensure you are a genuine applicant.
- If you receive a credibility visa refusal, any subsequent visa applications may also be at a high risk of being refused. Hence why it is important for you to prepare well for the pre-CAS credibility interview in order to do well in your UKVI credibility interview.

3. Who needs a pre-CAS credibility interview?

- As an international applicant, you will be required to complete an Extended Personal Statement as part of your application with us. If the information you provide us with in the statement is satisfactory, then you will not be required to attend a pre-CAS credibility interview. If however, the information you provide us with in the personal statement is not satisfactory, then you will be required to attend a short pre-CAS credibility interview with the Compliance Manager.

4. How long is a pre-CAS credibility interview and how will it be conducted?

- The interview will take approximately 30 minutes, but it may take longer if there are any internet connection issues.
- The interview will take place on the Microsoft Teams platform. You must therefore ensure you have downloaded the app on your desktop, laptop or mobile phone.
- You are advised to always provide us with your correct contact details (contact number and email) to enable our Compliance Manager to get in touch with you if needed

5. When can I book a pre-CAS credibility interview?

- You will be required to book a pre-CAS credibility interview if your Extended Personal Statement has not been approved.

- If you do not attend or are not prepared for the interview, you will not be issued with a CAS.
- A CAS will only be issued once the Compliance Manager is confident in your knowledge of, amongst other aspects, your intended course of study, your reasons for studying in the UK and your understanding of how the course relates to your future plans.

6. Booking a pre-CAS credibility interview appointment

- You can email the Compliance Manager at visa.compliance@bil.ac.uk once you are ready for your interview.
- The Compliance Manager will provide you with the next available date and time.
- If you cannot attend the interview at the next available date and time, you can request for a suitable date and time you would be able to attend your interview.

7. Preparing for interview questions

- You will need to demonstrate that you have conducted detailed research into your UK education.
- You should be able to back up all of your responses, including opinions, with objective facts found through research.
- You must not provide rehearsed answers or answers that do not relate to the question. You must ensure you listen and understand the question being asked and give an appropriate and full answer relevant to the question.
- You must not provide contradicting information to what you have already provided us (e.g. accommodation details).
- You must know the full name of your course, the full name of our institution and the start date of your course.

8. English language requirement

- You will need to demonstrate you can understand the questions asked, and provide answers that are coherent / clear, easy to understand and relevant to the questions asked.
- During the interview, the Compliance Manager will assess if you have the correct level of English for the course you are applying for.
- If you do not demonstrate an appropriate level of English language proficiency relevant to your course, we will not be able to issue you with a CAS.

9. Do's and don'ts for an interview

Do		Don't	
✓	Check your emails for any correspondence from the UKVI	X	Forget to check your spam folder so that you don't miss any emails
✓	Answer all of the questions honestly and comprehensively - failure to answer all of the questions may result in a visa refusal	X	Be evasive when answering the questions as this may damage your credibility
✓	Ask the interviewer to repeat the question if you do not hear/understand	X	Make up information – any fact you give will be checked by the ECO
✓	Make sure you answer the question before elaborating on your answer	X	Answer any questions with just “yes” or “no”
✓	Remind yourself of your research in detail so that you are prepared for the interview	X	Recite set answers. They may not be relevant to the questions you are asked during interview
✓	Use language you understand and explain, e.g. if you choose your institution because it is a Russell Group university, you need to be able to explain what this means and why it was important when making your final decision.	X	Use phrases that you do not understand from the institution's website
✓	Speak naturally	X	Take notes into the interview with you / read from notes

10. Common mistakes in answering interview questions

Providing limited, vague or generic answers that do not provide a specific, well-evidenced response to the question.

- Why did you choose to study at Bloomsbury Institute London?
 - Providing generic information that is not specific to your chosen institution and which could apply to any institution (e.g. 'great teaching', 'great facilities', 'staff very friendly').
 - Lack of a specific explanation as to why this institution is the best choice for you, and the inability to explain why these reasons make you want to study with us.
 - Little or no research of other institutions or lack of comparisons to other institutions.
 - Generic reasons for choosing this institution over other institutions (e.g. I like the atmosphere, library, course modules etc.).
- Why did you choose to study this course?
 - Lack of specific tangible benefits you will get from studying the course you chose.
- What is your future plan after completing this course?
 - You do not have a clear future plan after completing your degree course (i.e. you do not know the job or company you would like to work in).
 - You fail to demonstrate that you have or know your career options.
 - You do not provide details of the job role you would like in the future, and what work you would expect to be doing in the role.

- You provide limited explanation of how the course will help you achieve your future plan/not stating why you need the course to achieve your plan/what you will learn on your course that will help you achieve this.
- Accounting for study gaps.
 - Not accounting for study gaps. If you have a long study gap since your last programme then not stating why you did not return to studying earlier than now. Not stating why you took a study gap, and why you want to start studying again now.
- Why did you choose to study in the UK and not in your home country?
 - Giving limited reasons as to why you need to study in the UK rather than in your home country.
- Why did you choose to study in the UK and not USA, Canada or Australia?
 - Not comparing the UK with other countries abroad (i.e USA, Canada, Australia) to justify your reasons for choosing to study in the UK.
- Accommodation:
 - Not having a clear accommodation plan or a clear idea of your accommodation options.
 - Not researching your accommodation options.
 - Failing to demonstrate you have conducted sufficient research on your accommodation options – you must provide examples of accommodations you have looked at, and know specific details (e.g. name of accommodation, address, cost, distance from our campus, facilities etc).

11. After the pre-CAS credibility interview

- The Compliance Manager will provide feedback of your interview within two working days.
- A decision will be made after the 1st interview – if you have demonstrated sufficient research and performed well, you will be issued with a CAS.
- If you need more information or if your interview was not satisfactory, the Compliance Manager will request a personal statement or ask you to attend a 2nd interview.
- If the Compliance Manager requests a personal statement from you, it would be to clarify some points you raised during the interview without needing you to attend a 2nd interview.
- The personal statement may be needed to clarify or explain any minor discrepancies noted during the interview, such as study gaps, previous study timelines, financial status, how you think the course you intend to study will improve your future career prospects, etc.
- If after the 1st interview you require further research or gave vague and limited answers in many answers, you will be asked to attend a second interview.
- You must do further research and demonstrate you can provide improved answers in the second interview.
- If after the 2nd interview you do not perform well and are a high risk of failing your UKVI interview, we will not be able to issue you with a CAS for that intake.
- You would be able to apply for the next available intake but would need to take and pass another Pre-CAS credibility interview before being approved for a CAS.

12. Get in touch with us

If you have any questions, or do not have the appropriate environment or equipment to enable you to have your interview online, please contact the Compliance Manager by email or telephone:

Email: visa.compliance@bil.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7078 8843