

## **Credibility Interviews for Tier 4 Students:**

The Home Office announced in December 2012 that up to 100,000 students would be interviewed as part of the Tier 4 visa application process during this year.

Please be aware that from May 2013 if you apply for a Tier 4 student visa outside the UK and from October 2013 if you apply for a Tier 4 student visa inside the UK you may have to sit a short interview when you attend the visa application centre to submit your application and biometric information.

For most students we expect that this interview will only be 4-5 minutes long, and will be conducted via video link with the Home Office in the UK.

Some students may be asked to attend a longer face to face interview at the visa application centre. The interview will focus on your reasons for coming to the UK; this is known as a credibility interview.

The video record of your interview will be attached to your file and the visa officer will consider it alongside your visa application and supporting documents. You may be called for a further interview if the visa officer needs more information.

Please note that students who are nationals of countries deemed to be "low risk" will not be interviewed.

If you are requested to attend an interview this is mandatory and if you do not attend without a satisfactory explanation, this will result in an automatic refusal of your visa application. If you are requested to attend an interview, the request will be sent to the email you input on the visa application form. Sometimes this may go into your junk/spam box so make sure you check; if you miss the email, it is not a valid reason to miss the interview and your visa will be refused.

You can still be refused based on the current Tier 4 Points Based System requirements (i.e. 30 points for a valid CAS and 10 points for maintenance requirements) but the new credibility interview allows refusals to be issued if you have achieved the general requirements and scored the 40 points required, but on the basis of the interview the Home Office are not satisfied that you are a genuine student.

We do not anticipate any applicants who have been issued with a CAS from Plymouth University to encounter any problem as a result of the credibility interviews; therefore you should not worry unduly about this. However we would suggest that it is advisable for you to look at the possible questions you could be asked below, and to think about how you would answer them.

For further information please see

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/2012/july/18-student-interviews>

### **Possible Credibility Interview Questions:**

- Why do you want to study in the UK?
- What are the benefits of studying in the UK compared to your home country or USA/Canada/Australia?
- Why did you choose this University?
- How did you find out about it?
- Which other colleges/universities have you considered?
- Where is the University?
- Do you know anyone else who has already studied there?
- Do you know how large the university is?
- Why did you choose this course and how does it relate to your previous study?
- How do you explain the gaps in your study history?
- What is the relevance of the course to your future career path?
- What qualification will you receive?
- How long does your course last?
- How is your chosen course assessed?
- Do you know what level your course is at?
- Did you consider any other course?
- Does this course offer any professional recognition?
- Are you planning to stay in the UK on completion to study for a higher award?
- Are you thinking of transferring to another institution on completion?
- What facilities are you expecting at the college/university?
- Will you need help in finding accommodation? What accommodation is available at the University?

### **Some of the key areas you need to think about:**

- **Ability to speak English**
- If you are unable to communicate in English you will be refused immediately.
- **Knowledge of intended course of study and place of study**
- How much do you know about your intended course of study? What qualification does it lead to? What research into other available options have you undertaken? Have you looked at the University's website and location?
- **Academic background**
- What are your reasons for commencing or returning to study now? If there are any gaps in your study history how can these be explained?
- **Immigration History**
- Did you comply with the conditions of any previous UK visas? Have you ever had any visa refusals – why? If you have studied in the UK previously were your studies successful, and have you considered the Tier 4 time limit now?
- **Finances and Personal Circumstances**

- Would anything about your personal circumstances make it difficult for you to complete a full time course of study? How will you be funding yourself and where have the funds come from, i.e. from wages, family etc.? What are your plans after study on returning home?