

## Home Office Interview

This guidance has been put together to help you to think about some of the types of topics the Home Office may cover during your credibility interview, the answers you give will help the caseworker decide if you are a genuine and credible student. It is a big decision to study away from home for a year or more and they will expect you to have done extensive research before making your decision. They will also be expecting you to be able to hold a conversation in English and respond to their questions, if you are unclear about a question don't be afraid to ask for clarification.

You should already have had some communication with your department about your course and with other University representatives, either in your home country or online and read our prospectuses. Our website contains a wealth of information and you can find out lots of information about the University and the local area. Here are some things to think about:

### **What made you choose to study with us and in the UK?**

Before deciding on your course and institution what research did you do before you chose Essex, what other institutions or courses did you consider before settling on your Essex course?

How does the course you've decided to study relate to your previous studies and how might it build on your previous learning? If you are taking a course at the same level as your previous course, how do you believe it represents academic progression, for instance, are the subjects related and do the courses combined help you to reach your goals?

What attracted you to the student lifestyle and facilities at your campus? What have you learnt about the local area, its location within the UK and proximity to other towns and cities? If you will be living off campus, think about your daily life including travelling to your campus.

What made you decide on the UK rather than your home country or another English-speaking country or a country that other students of your nationality often choose to study in.

### **What are your career goals and plans?**

After you graduate, how do you think the knowledge and skills you gain from your course at Essex will help you to start or further your career, what are your aspirations? Maybe you are taking an additional course as you have decided on a slightly different career path. Will your course lead to any professional exemptions or qualifications, are these recognised in your home country and how will they help you with your future career?

Are there advantages that you believe a degree from the UK might give you over others and why are you prepared to make this financial investment? What do you know about the jobs that previous students obtained after graduating from the course you've chosen?

### **How will you be funding your studies?**

As part of your application you must have the specified finances in place. Even if you haven't had to submit documents with your application you may have to explain where the funds have come from and how you will fund your entire course. If you have official financial sponsorship make sure you are aware of the amounts, what it covers and how you will cover any shortfall. If you have a loan, have you thought about how will you fund the repayments?

You are expected to be able to support yourself financially throughout your course and one of the conditions of your Student visa will be that you would not have access to public funds. As an Essex sponsored degree student, you should be given a condition that allows you to work part-time alongside your studies but must not rely on work to pay for your living costs and tuition fees. You also need to demonstrate an understanding of the type of work you can do for how many hours in term time and the typical rates of pay.

Make sure you know how much your accommodation is likely to cost and what the cost of living is in the UK.

If you have any questions or concerns about your credibility interview, please feel free to [contact us](#).