

# UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL LANCASHIRE

## INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

### VISA INTERVIEWS – GUIDANCE FOR OUR OFFER HOLDERS

The United Kingdom's Home Office has introduced interviews as part of the application process for a student visa, and it is likely that you will be interviewed when you apply for your Tier 4 (General) visa. Interviewing is not part of the process of applying for a Student Visitor Visa. If you are a national of Argentina, Australia, Botswana, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan (if you hold a passport issued by Taiwan that includes the number of the identification card issued by the competent authority in Taiwan), Trinidad and Tobago or the USA and if you are applying for your visa in your home country (or the UK), you will probably not need to have an interview. British Nationals (Overseas) passport holders are also unlikely to be interviewed.

Universities have been given some information about the format and process of the interviews, and UCLan staff have put together this guidance to help you to prepare for your interview.

#### **Do not worry!**

The first point to remember is that many thousands of students will be being interviewed. So please do not worry. Please do read the guidance below carefully, and think about your answers to the questions raised.

#### **Where will I be interviewed?**

Your interview will be conducted at the Visa Application Centre (VAC) where you attend to submit your application and biometric information. It is very important that you attend your interview at the time given as failure to attend may cause your application to be refused. If you are not able to attend your interview at the time given, please contact the VAC to re-schedule your interview.

Your interview is likely to be conducted using on-line video-conferencing/Skype, although some interviews may be conducted using only the telephone.

#### **Who is the interviewer?**

Your interviewer will be based in the UK, and normally only one person will conduct the interviews. It is possible that some interviews may have a second person present for quality control purposes. If there is more than one person in your interview, it would be polite to ask which person/s you should respond to and then to respond as advised.

## **What is the language of the interview?**

Your interview will be conducted solely in English.

## **What is the process of the interview?**

It is likely that your interview will last just a few minutes. However, do not feel that you need to rush through your answers because you think the interviewer only has a few minutes; it is important that you answer all questions as fully as possible, and explain to the interviewer what is important or interesting to you as an individual; the interviewer will be interested in your answers.

It is important to understand that all interviews are individual; questions asked in your interview may be completely different to the questions your friends or classmates are asked. It is also important that you answer all questions completely honestly.

You may be asked a few 'ice-breaker' questions to help make you feel at ease at the beginning of the interview; just respond to these as you would with anyone starting a conversation with you. The interviewer will understand that you might be feeling stressed or nervous; just try to relax and answer the questions asked to the best of your ability.

The interviewer might point out the seriousness of the interview; again, this is nothing to worry about and may simply be a requirement that the interviewer must fulfil.

You may be asked about the course you plan to study at UCLan and what led you to make this choice, in terms of the subject you will study, your choice of UCLan and even, perhaps, why you want to study in the UK. You may be asked what interests you in particular about the subject and what qualifications you needed to apply for the course. You may also be asked about your long-term career plans, and how your planned study at UCLan will help you achieve your career goals. The interviewer may ask you a question about one of the answers that you have given; this is nothing to worry about, it just means that the interviewer wants to have a two-way conversation with you. If you put yourself in the interviewer's position, s/he may well be very interested in hearing about your experiences and what has led you to choose your programme of study and UCLan.

**Please remember** - if at any time you are not clear what information the interviewer is looking for, do ask him/her to clarify and if you do not know the answer to a question, just say so; do not make up an answer.

## **How do I prepare for the interview?**

You should ensure that you have made the necessary arrangements to attend the interview punctually at the requested time.

You should give some prior thought to the interview, just as you would if this were an interview for a job after you graduate, and ensure you know details of your planned course of study, any professional requirements for your chosen career path, and the process by which you applied for your course. You will probably have read a lot about life in the UK if you have not been to the UK before, and this will be useful information to look through again. By preparing in this way, you will feel more confident.

### **After the interview**

It is important to remember that each interview is different and is tailored to each applicant. The interviewer will send a report on your interview to the visa officer and this will be an additional piece of information which will help the visa officer to make his/her decision on your visa application. If there are still some areas which are not clear, you may be asked to attend a second interview, although we understand that this is likely to be in only a small number of cases.