

The Home Office intends to interview most students who make a Tier 4 (General) visa application before deciding whether to grant the visa. This is to assess whether your English language ability meets the required level and whether you are considered to be a 'genuine student' whose main purpose to be in the UK is to study.

Will I have to go for an interview as part of my application?

Yes, it is likely.

Applying outside of the UK

The Home Office intends to interview most students applying for a Tier 4 general visa to enter the UK from overseas (entry clearance). You will be interviewed when you attend the visa application centre to submit your application and biometric information. You might be asked to attend a further interview if the visa officer requires further information. If you are considered to be a 'low risk' national you may not be invited to attend an interview. Your initial interview will usually be via video call to a member of staff in the UK.

Applying in the UK

If you are applying to extend your Tier 4 visa in the UK you may be contacted requesting you attend an interview. Your interview may be in person, over the phone or via video call.

**** Please check your email account and correspondence address regularly. If you do not attend your interview your application will be automatically refused ****

Typical questions you may be asked

The person interviewing you may not know anything about you, your studies or your immigration history. It is your responsibility to tell them as much information as possible.

Why did you choose to study at London South Bank University?

How to prepare: Think about why you chose to study in the UK rather than in your home country, another English-speaking country or country which other students of your nationality chose to study in. You might want to refer to the information on our website.

Why did you choose your course?

How to prepare: You are expected to know a lot about the details of your course. There may be many courses that are similar to the course offered by LSBU, so think about your decision process and why you chose to study your particular course. You may also be asked about the academic level of your course, what qualification you will be awarded once you complete your course, and when the course starts and ends. What modules will you study as part of your course and how will these modules be assessed? If you have access to your timetable, look at how many hours a week you may be expected to attend classes.

Do your research – You can find details about the course, the modules you will be studying and assessment methods on the LSBU website and in your course guide: www.lsbu.ac.uk

How do the course and your studies fit into your career plans?

How to prepare: As well as the course content, think about how the knowledge and skills you will gain will help you in your future career. Does it result in a professional qualification that will be recognised in your home country? Think about whether you know of anyone who has completed the course and what kind of organisations or job roles they

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work in now. If your course is different from something you have previously studied, why have you changed interest? If you are studying a course that is at a similar academic level to your previous studies, you should be prepared to explain the reasons for choosing this course. How does it represent academic progression and does it have more of a vocational focus? If you have previously studied in the UK, why have you decided to stay in the UK? Think about how the course may build on or compliment your previous studies.

✈️ You have had a break in your studies. Why have you decided to return to your studies now?

How to prepare: Be expected to explain your decision to return to your studies. If you think the course will help to further your long-term career plans, specifically explain how you think it will do this.

✈️ Where do you intend to live?

How to prepare: You will be expected to have thought about your accommodation arrangements. Where is the university located? You should know how you intend to travel to the university, how long the journey will take and how much you think the journey will cost. You can find details about the location of the university and student residences on our website: www.lsbu.ac.uk/contact-us/maps-and-travel

✈️ How will you fund your studies?

How to prepare: As part of your visa application you will have already submitted proof of your finances therefore you should know how much your course fees are and how much you need to cover your living costs. Be very clear about where you got the funds from. If you have a loan, how will you pay this back? If you or your family are funding your studies, how will you cover the cost of studying and living if your course exceeds a year? If you have an official financial sponsor (e.g. government or university) make sure you know exactly what amounts you will receive.

Details about the university, fees, cost of living in London and student residences can be found on the LSBU website www.lsbu.ac.uk. Home Office requirements and regulations can be found on their website and in the Tier 4 Policy Guidance (see the links below).

✈️ Do you plan to get a job in the UK?

How to prepare: Many students holding a Tier 4 (General) visa are entitled to some working rights in the UK, however you should know how many hours you would be entitled to work and typical rates of pay. It is important to understand that you cannot rely on working in the UK to pay for your tuition fees and living costs. You can find further information on the student portal 'My LSBU' and the Home Office's Tier 4 Policy Guidance (see the links below).

Any questions?

- ✈️ Contact the LSBU International Student Advice team: international.advice@lsbu.ac.uk
- ✈️ Visit the LSBU website: www.lsbu.ac.uk/international
- ✈️ Visit UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) website: www.ukcisa.org.uk
- ✈️ Visit the Home Office website: www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa
- ✈️ Read the current Home Office Tier 4 Policy Guidance: www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-application-for-uk-visa-as-tier-4-student

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Immigration and International Student Advice

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E: international.advice@lsbu.ac.uk

W: my.lsbu.ac.uk/my/applicant/Current-Applicants/International-students/Advice