

Pre-CAS Interview Guidance Information

This guidance is designed to help international student agents advise students preparing for their **pre-CAS interview** for entry to Bournemouth University (BU), and to understand how best to support them without providing scripted answers or coaching.

The purpose of the interview is to confirm that the applicant has made a well-informed, genuine, and personal decision to study at BU in the UK. UKVI may also conduct a credibility interview during the visa process, so it is essential that students can confidently explain their choices in their own words.

Key Areas - Applicants Must Be Prepared to Discuss

You should guide applicants to reflect on the following four areas and encourage them to give thoughtful, specific, and personal responses:

1. Why the UK?

Encourage the applicant to go beyond general or surface-level responses.

Help them think more personally:

- Why does studying in the UK benefit *them* in terms of personal growth, academic progression, or future career plans?
- What alternatives did they consider?
- What is it about the UK's education system, duration of study, or teaching style that suits their individual needs?

2. Why Bournemouth University (BU)?

Applicants must be able to explain why they chose BU over other UK universities. Avoiding overly broad reasons.

Guide them to research and reflect on more specific factors:

- Course content and structure unique to BU
- Campus facilities or learning resources
- Industry links, placements, or accreditations
- Student support services or career opportunities
- BU's location, safety, lifestyle, or affordability.

3. Why this course?

Students should demonstrate that they made a well-informed and deliberate choice of course.

Prompt them to consider:

- What interests them about the subject?
- Did they compare courses at other universities?
- Why is this course at BU the right fit?
- How does the course link to their previous studies, skills, or future goals?

They must show that they have thought carefully and are not applying to the course for vague or secondary reasons.

4. Understanding of the Course

Applicants should be familiar with the **content and structure** of the course they have applied to and be able to demonstrate why they like it. This demonstrates genuine interest and awareness.

Encourage them to explore:

- Module names or subject areas
- Length of the course
- Assessment methods (e.g., exams, coursework, presentations)
- Any placements, project work, or professional accreditations
- How the course connects to their career plans.

Good Practice for Agents

Agents **can and should**:

- Encourage students to research the BU website, course pages, and university materials
- Ask open-ended questions that prompt reflection
- Help applicants think critically about their motivations and future plans
- Provide general interview advice and tips on how to speak confidently and clearly
- Emphasise the importance of **genuine, specific, and personal answers**.

What Agents Must Avoid

To remain compliant with UKVI and BU policies, **agents must not**:

- Provide model answers or scripts
- Rehearse specific responses with students
- Tell students what to say
- Create or complete answers on behalf of students
- Encourage copying information from the internet or other applicants.

Ongoing Preparation After Passing

If a student has **passed BU's internal pre-CAS interview**, they may still be invited to attend a **UKVI credibility interview**. This is a separate part of the visa process and is outside of BU's control.

You should explain:

Once you've passed BU's interview the UKVI may still contact you for a credibility interview as part of your visa application. This is random or based on individual case factors. You should continue to prepare and reflect on your reasons for studying at BU.

Encourage ongoing preparation in the same four areas:

1. Why the UK?
2. Why BU?
3. Why this course?
4. Understanding of the course

They should continue to express these points naturally and confidently, without relying on memorised answers.

If Students Need Further Help

Direct students to:

- Review their **course page** on the BU website
- Think about their **long-term goals** and how BU helps them achieve these
- Avoid relying on scripts, group chats, or generalised online advice

If they remain unsure, suggest they write down their own reasons and try to explain them aloud — this helps them develop clarity and confidence in their own voice.

Summary

Agents should:

- Guide, prompt, and encourage research
- Reinforce the need for authenticity
- Remind students of the key areas of focus

Agents must not:

- Coach or script answers
- Rehearse interviews
- Speak on behalf of the student

By helping students reflect on their individual journey and build confidence in their choices, agents play a vital role in preparing applicants for a successful pre-CAS and visa process.