# Migration Interview Protocol – rounds 1&2 (to be conducted with students)

**Warm-up/Introductory Questions**

1. **For all**
2. First, can you please tell us a little about yourself: What course are you studying?
3. Why did you decide to study in South Africa?
   * + - (Probe, do the qualifications given in South Africa have greater value?)
       - Were there issues in the home country in terms of gaining entry into a university or the courses you wanted to study?
       - What were the issues (gender, race, costs, not enough places in home country, others?)
       - Are there personal reasons why South Africa was chosen? (Probe: partners?)
       - Did you think that your job opportunities would alter (improve/decline) by studying in South Africa? If yes to one of the above, what made you think so? Hearsay, friends, literature, experience?
       - Which other countries did you consider before thinking of studying in South Africa?
       - If so, why did you not choose the other country and still choose South Africa?)
       - Was South Africa your first choice? If not, why not? If yes, why?
4. Have your ever lived or worked outside your home own country, excluding South Africa. If so, what for? How long, where?
5. Have you studied in any other countries other than South Africa and your home country? If so, when and why? How was that? Why did you decide not do HE there itself?
6. What educational choices did you have in your home country if you had not chosen South Africa? OR Why did you choose distance education in South Africa instead of local higher education your home country?
7. So far, what has studying in South Africa enabled you to do which you would not have been able to do otherwise?

1. Why did you choose DE (distance education)?

(Probe: issues of access: gender equality, disability, costs, other commitments and if so what they are?)

Why did you not study full-time? (Use, if the answers are not forthcoming)

Why did you choose distance education in South Africa rather than distance education in your home country? (Probe: How? Or in what aspects distance education in your country differ from distance education in South Africa?)

1. What do you think your degree will enable you to do?
2. Why UNISA?

How did you find out about UNISA?

What is it like to be an international student at UNISA?

If there was one thing you would change about being an international student at UNISA, what would it be?

Could you describe for me your experience of starting (signing up and getting enrolled) at the university?

1. **Choose A or B based on residence**
2. *For IDE students who did not come to South Africa*
3. Why did you not come to South Africa to study? (Probe: visa, practical reasons, costs, etc.)
4. If you had to come to South Africa to do this degree would you still have done this course?
5. Do you have to visit South Africa as part of your study?
6. To what extent does the material you study reflect your country?
7. How has your study been influenced by not being in South Africa? (Probe: Are there things that you are unable to do in your study because you are not in South Africa? Are there things which are easier?)
8. How is student support organised? How effective do you find it for your requirements?
9. How are socialising with other students and group study organised?
10. Do you have any social connections in South Africa that help you when you experience a problem with your studies or UNISA? How did you develop these social connections?
11. How does being so far from the main UNISA campus impact your studies?
12. Can you compare the education you get in SA with the one in your home country?

*B1: For IDE students who do come to South Africa*

1. When did you first come to South Africa?
2. Can you describe your experience of coming to SA for the first time?
3. What was your original reason for coming to South Africa when you did? (refugee, family, study but for a previous course, study for this course, work)
4. When you first arrived did you have any support from family and friends already living in South Africa? What kind of support did they give you? Do you still get support from these networks? How did this support influence your transition into a new country?
5. Have you made any new social networks that provide you with support while you are here? How did you form these connections? How have these connections affected your stay in South Africa?
6. Can you tell us a little bit about your migration history prior to coming to South Africa?
7. And after coming to South Africa, have you moved around?

*B2: For the participants who are IS but have been residing in SA for long time (10 years):*

1. Why do you consider yourself as an international student?
2. *If participant was unsure of whether they were IS or not:* Why are you unsure of whether you are an IS or not?
3. **For all students**
4. What is your home language? Can you speak any other languages?
5. Are you working at the same time? How do you balance your studies and working at the same time?
6. Could you describe your home situation for me please? (What country are your family living in? What nationality are they? Do you have any dependents? How often do you see your family?)
7. What are your goals for the future? What are you planning to do once you have completed your degree?
8. Do you plan to stay in South Africa/your current country after your study? (why?)
9. Do you have any other migration plans? If so, what are they? If not, why not?
10. Do you think that your South African experience of stay/study (*please choose appropriately for A and B students above*) will affect your migration plans in the future? (Probe: advantages and disadvantages) How and why?
11. How do you think that your South African experience of stay/study (*please choose appropriately for A and B students above*) will affect your career plans in the future? (probe advantages and disadvantages) How and why?
12. Do you think you would have the same career prospects had you studied in your home country? Elsewhere?

Thanks very much.

(These questions address *entry* and *widening participation* dimension of access; and *quality education*)

**Academic Experiences with Distance Education**

1. Why did you choose the course that you are studying now?
2. What are the necessary skills and supports you will need to achieve your life /professional goals? Could you give any concrete examples of course work where you feel you are getting the skills you need?
3. How has UNISA enabled you to achieve these goals? Where would you like to live after you complete your degree? Probe: to work or to study? Why? (addressing mobility and migration*,* addressing *academic/personal/social adjustment*; *relevance* and *employability* dimension of quality education; *recognition and representation* dimension of access and *learning design*)