# Migration Interview Protocol (to be conducted with students)

**Introductory Questions**

1. Can you first tell me about yourself, What course are you studying?

Why did you choose the course that you are studying now?

1. Why did you decide to study for a degree in South Africa through distance education?
   * + - Was South Africa your first choice? If not, why not? If yes, why?
       - Do the qualifications given in South Africa have greater value than the ones in your country? If so, why?
       - Which other countries did you consider before deciding to study through DE (distance education) from South Africa?
       - If so, why did you not choose the other country and still choose South Africa?
       - What educational choices did you have in your home country? Do they offer the courses you wanted to study?
       - Were there issues in the home country in terms of gaining entry into a university? What were the issues (gender, race, costs, not enough places in home country, others?)
       - Why did you choose distance education in South Africa instead of local higher education? (Probe: issues of access: gender equality, disability, costs, other commitments and if so what they are?)
       - Could you not have taken distance education in your home country? (Probe: How is distance education in your country differ from distance education in South Africa?)
2. What do you think your degree will enable you to do?
   * + - Did you think that your job opportunities would alter (improve/decline) by studying in South Africa? If yes, what made you think so? Hearsay, friends, literature, experience?
       - So far, what has studying for this degree enabled you to do which you would not have been able to do otherwise?
3. Why did you choose UNISA?
   * + - How did you find out about UNISA?
       - Could you describe for me your experience of starting, in terms of signing up and getting enrolled, at the university?
       - What is it like to be an international student at UNISA?
4. Why did you not go to South Africa to study? (Probe: visa, practical reasons, costs, etc.)
5. (If you had to go to South Africa to do this degree would you still have done this course?)
6. Do you have to visit South Africa as part of your study?
7. Is the material that you study relevant to the context of your country?
8. How does being so far from the main UNISA campus impact your studies? (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?)
9. How is student support organised? How effective do you find it for your requirements?
10. How are socialising with other students and group study organised?
11. Do you have any social connections in South Africa? Can they help you when you experience a problem with your studies or UNISA? How did you develop these social connections?
12. If there was one thing you would change about being an international student at UNISA, what would it be?
13. **For all students**
14. What is your first language? Can you speak any other languages?

Are you working at the same time? How do you balance your studies and working at the same time? Is it important to you that you can study part-time? Why?

1. Could you say a bit about your own background, for example do you come from a wealthy family, did your parents study at university?
2. Could you describe your home situation for me?

What country are your family living in?

What nationality are they?

Do you have any dependents?

How often do you see your family?

1. Have your ever lived outside your home own country? If so, what for? How long, where? Why did you not study for a degree there?
2. What are your goals for the future?
   * + - What are the necessary skills and supports you will need to achieve your life /professional goals?
       - Will your UNISA degree enable you to achieve these goals - Could you give any concrete examples of course work where you feel you are getting the skills you need?
3. What are you planning to do when you have completed your degree?
4. Do you plan to stay in your current country or do you have any plans to go abroad after your studies? (Why?) Probe: to work or to study?

1. Do you have any other migration plans? If so, what are they? If not, why not?
2. How do you think that your distance education experience of study will affect your migration plans in the future? (Probe: advantages and disadvantages) How and why?
3. Did you take DE to avoid going abroad? Or to enable going abroad in the future?
4. How do you think that your distance education experience will affect your career plans in the future? (Probe advantages and disadvantages)? How and why?
5. Do you think you would have the same career prospects if had you studied in your home country? Elsewhere?
6. I don’t have any other questions. Is there anything you would like to add to what we have talked about? Or do you have any questions?

That’s all my questions, it was great talking to you. Thank you very much for participating.