

ELEMENT SEVEN



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CALL NOTES

Call Notes for first 30-minute call with client

In the first 30-minute call, the client will be asked the following questions. Below each question are sample notes from a hypothetical call with Omar Farid, the fictional client.

What first drew you to study Psychology? Can you tell me about your experiences so far?

Omar has always been interested in people and 'what makes them tick.' He has recently completed an MSc in Cognitive Psychology at the University of Edinburgh and, previously, completed a BSc in Psychology at the University of Manchester. His MA dissertation focused on the initial experiences of clients in counselling sessions, and he wants to continue this research through a PhD programme. He is particularly interested in the experiences of clients from marginalised communities and wants this to be a major part of his research. He enjoys combining research methods with people and is a 'hands on' researcher.

What are your research interests?

His MA dissertation focused on the initial experiences of clients of counselling sessions, and he wants to continue this research through a PhD programme. He is particularly interested in the experiences of clients from marginalised communities.

What research methods do you want to adopt?

He wants to develop pioneering research methods that help other researchers in the future.

Where would you like to continue your studies?

Omar studied for his MSc at the University of Edinburgh and really likes the city and Scotland in general. He would be interested in continuing studying at the University of Edinburgh, but is open to other suggestions. Finding a suitable supervisor is the most important factor for him.

What are your career ambitions?

Omar wants to become a university Professor and is open to working in several countries during his career. He may also want to train as a psychotherapist in the future and combine research and private practice.

When would you like to begin a PhD programme? Would you prefer a full or part-time programme?

Ideally, September 2026, as Omar wants to settle into his new job and needs to find funding. He has recently accepted a full time job in Dundee and will be moving there shortly, so his PhD will need to be part time and be undertaken remotely. He will need to find a programme that will accommodate this. He may want to transfer to full time status in the future.

Would you need to secure funding before you begin the programme? Are you a Home or International student? Do you know of any restrictions or requirements that would help or hinder you obtaining funding?

Omar needs funding to pay for his fees. He may be able to start the PhD without it, as he has a full time job so doesn't need funding to cover his living expenses.

Do you have any questions? Is there anything you'd like to know more about?

Omar would like to know more about how to look for funding for a part time programme.

Call Notes for second 30-minute call with client

In the second 30-minute call, the client will be asked the following questions after they have received their University Recommendation Report. Below each question are sample notes from a hypothetical call with Omar, the fictional client.

Which of the universities recommended in the report appealed to you?

Omar was drawn to the University of Edinburgh, where he studied for his MSc. He was open to other universities, particularly Goldsmiths, but felt that the potential supervisor at the University of Edinburgh was particularly suitable. He also liked the idea that he could more easily access the university, use the library etc, from Dundee. The University of Edinburgh is his top choice.

Which of the supervisors did you prefer and why?

Omar was drawn to Dr Nini Kerr because of her expertise in the lived experiences of marginalised communities. Her research delves into the intricate and nuanced connections between identity, psychological experiences, and social reality, which is what Omar wants to focus his research on.

Do any of the funding opportunities interest you?

He is interested in applying for an Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarship and the Scottish Graduate School of Social Science, Economic and Social Research Council Funding

What would you like our next steps to be?

He would like to email Dr Nini Kerr with his proposal and receive help with a funding application.