

TIPS FOR STUDENTS SPEAKING TO THE MEDIA

With the constant changes in current events, it is important that students think through the immediate and long-term implications of media requests.

It is important that you know that this is an individual decision. It is ultimately up to you to decide what you feel most comfortable with. You may say “no for now” and decide at a later point to engage with the media. Consenting to an interview may place you in a more public position. Be sure you are comfortable with this before agreeing to be interviewed.

Whatever your decision is, please know that the International Student Office is here for you and that we are a place of support. Here are some basic tips to keep in mind:

- Don't say anything you wouldn't be comfortable seeing online, even if the reporter says it is off the record.
- Don't feel obligated to talk to anyone from the media.
- Don't feel obligated to answer every question.
- Don't be afraid to say “I don't know,” it's better than giving out wrong info.
- You can end an interview at any point if you become uncomfortable with the questions.
- If you request anonymity, think what if any details you want to share (e.g. if you are one of a handful of students from a given country, then being identified by country will not yield much protection.)
- If you do an interview or engage online and encounters problems, you should contact our office.
- Language differences can complicate interviews. You can request the interview be conducted in our office where we may be able to help clarify questions and answers.
- Feel free to refer reporters to the International Student Office or the Office of Media Relations.