

## Visa Tips

The actual interview with an officer is the most important part of getting a visa. Interviews (on average) only last about three minutes, so you must be prepared. Here are some items to consider for the interview itself:

- While we know it is a stressful time, try to not be nervous. They want to see confidence.
- Have your documents ready. Check with your individual consulate on what documents you must have for your interview. Documents will include:
  - Passport with 6 months validity
  - DS-160 properly filled out
  - I-901 Receipt
  - I-20 or DS-2019 (Depending on your admission type)
  - Recent Passport Photo for visa picture
- Do not hand the officer extra documents (such as transcripts, test scores, bank statements, letters of recommendation, etc.) unless asked.
- Do not memorize a script of what to say. Just be yourself and engage in conversation with the officer.
- Know about the school and program of study that you will be joining. We cannot answer for you “Why are you choosing A-State?”. This is your own personal answer on why you are choosing our school. Think carefully and give a thoughtful answer.
- Interviews are almost always conducted in the English language, even if you’re applying to ESL. This is because the officer wants to see that a person can conduct a short conversation with an American.

Please note that you can leave the interview with an approval, with administrative processing, or with a refusal.

- Administrative processing means the officer is not ready to make a decision and can be for different reasons like expiring passport or start date on I-20 has passed.
- Refusals are hard to overcome but not impossible. Try again!

Remember that once your visa is approved, your visa record is for life.

Below are some sample interview questions that we are aware that have occurred before. These do not mean that you will get all (or any) of these questions. Most questions will be related to these 5 categories (but are not limited to these):

- Your study plans:
  - Why are you going to the U.S.?
  - What will you specialize in for your degree?
  - What will be your major?
  - Where did you go to school now?
  - Who is your current employer? What do you do?
  - Why are you planning to continue your education?

- Can you not continue your education in your home country?
- How will this study program relate to your past work or studies?
- Your university choice:
  - How many colleges did you apply to?
  - How many schools did you get admitted to?
  - How many schools rejected you?
  - Have you been to the U.S. before?
  - Do you know your professors at that university? What are their names?
  - What city is your school located in?
- Your academic capability:
  - What are your test scores (GRE, GMAT, TOEFL, IELTS)?
  - What was your previous GPA?
  - How will you manage the cultural and educational differences in the U.S.?
  - How good is your English?
  - Why do you want to pursue a degree in the U.S.?
  - Why not study in Canada, Australia or the U.K.?
  - What do you know about U.S. schools?
  - Can I see your high school/college diploma?
- Your financial status:
  - What is your monthly income?
  - What is your sponsor's annual income?
  - How do you plan to fund the entire duration of your education?
  - How much does your school cost?
  - How will you meet these expenses?
  - Who is going to sponsor your education?
  - What is your sponsor's occupation?
  - How else will you cover the rest of your costs?
  - Do you have a copy of your bank statements?
  - Did you get offered a scholarship at your school?
  - Can I see your tax returns?
- Your post-graduation plans:
  - Do you have relatives or friends currently in the U.S.?
  - What are your plans post-graduation?
  - Do you have a job or career in mind after you graduate?
  - Do you plan on returning back to your home country?
  - What are your plans after graduation?
  - Are you sure you won't stay in the U.S.?
  - Will you continue to work for your current employer after you graduate?

**Disclaimer:** Following the above tips will not guarantee visa success. These are just tips to help you be better prepared.