

Visa Appointment Strategies

General.

- Check before hand to see if you need a visa to enter the country where you will have your interview.
- Have a valid passport in your possession.
- Make sure that you answer all questions in your visa application and any related forms.
- Business dress is appropriate apparel for the interview.
- Anticipate that the visa interview will be conducted in English. Do not bring parents or family members with you to the interview. Th



Academics. Be definite and clear about your educational plans. You should be able to explain precisely what you wish to study and why. Be especially prepared to explain reasons for studying in the United States rather than your country.

Financial documentation. Be prepared to prove financial ability to pay for your education and living expenses. While it is true that when authorized you will be able to work part time during your studies, such employment is considered incidental to your main purpose of completing your education. You must show the consular officer that you have available the annual amount in U.S. dollars listed on your Form I-20 or DS-2019. Your financial evidence should be in the form of bank statements, affidavits of support, scholarship award letters. etc.

Ties to your home country. Be able to provide convincing reasons for consular officials to believe that you intend to return home after studies in the U.S. Emphasize ties to your home country such as family obligations, property or investments that you own or will inherit and clear explanations of how you plan to use your education to help your country or pursue a career when you return home.

Dependents remaining at home. If you have a spouse and/or children remaining behind in your home country, be prepared to address how they will support themselves in your absence. This can be an especially tricky area if you are the primary source of income for your family. If the consular official gains the impression that your family members will need you to remit money from the U.S. in order to support them, your student visa will almost surely be denied.

Focus. Because of the volume of visa applications, all consular officials are under considerable pressure to conduct a quick and efficient interview. They must make a decision for the most part, on the impression they form during the first minute or two of the interview. Consequently, what you say first and the initial impression you create are critical to your success. Officials try to detect an applicant's intentions that may be different than those of a potential student who is to return to their home country after training. Keep your answers short and to the point.