

Visa Bible

F1-Visa Guidelines

Fall 2013

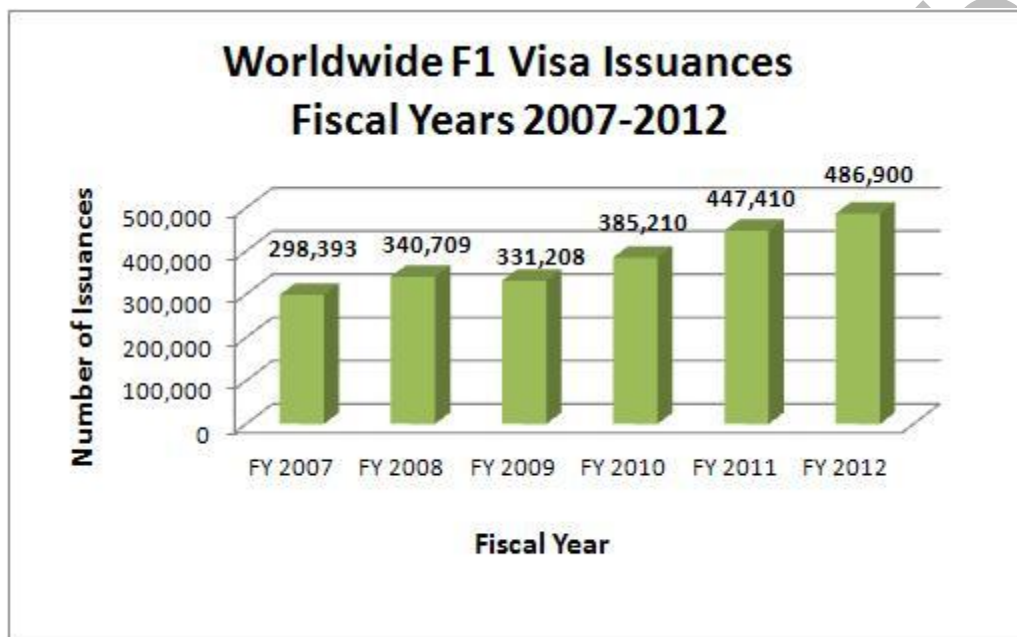
Hyderabad

www.msatus.com

Before going to understand the F1 Visa from Indian student's point of view

It's very important to understand the actual scenario of **F1-Visa issuances** in India. Let's check the statistics available regarding this in internet.

Worldwide F1 Visa Statistics



Top 5 countries worldwide with F1 Visa Issuances 1n 2012

China - mainland	189,402
Korea, South	39,159
Saudi Arabia	27,932
India	23,446
Japan	18,669

***Let's see what's India's share
in world of F1 visa issuances 1997 - 2012***

Year	F1 Visas Issued In India	F1 Visas Issued Worldwide	India's Share of F1 Visas
1997	10,532	266,483	3.9 %
1998	12,154	251,565	4.8 %
1999	15,286	262,542	5.8 %
2000	20,469	284,053	7.2 %
2001	24,106	293,357	8.2 %
2002	20,771	234,322	8.8 %
2003	19,152	215,695	8.8 %
2004	18,309	218,898	8.3 %
2005	20,173	237,890	8.4 %
2006	26,342	273,870	9.6 %
2007	34,471	298,393	11.5 %
2008	36,149	340,711	10.6 %
2009	26,890	331,208	8.1 %
2010	25,783	385,210	6.6 %
2011	25,649	447,410	5.7 %
2012	23,446	486,900	4.8 %

Dear Students,

Dr. Raju's Consulting Division and USA Visa Advisory Services is happy to present this small booklet for Fall 2013 - Spring 2014. This gives a Bird's eye view on the F1 Visa Interview Appointment booking process at USA consulates in India, About F1 Visa, and about Visa Interview, Documents required, Checklist, and Common Interview Questions etc. For more and complete information on USA F1 Visa including statistics of F1 Visa in all over the world and especially in India can be found at our website www.msatus.com and join our [forums](#) in the website, and discussion groups to share many things with likely minded students.

- **Dr. Raju's Team**

I have received my I-20's but not sure which university to select.

- University Selection for Visa is a personal choice only.
- Another important fact of recent times is most of the Indian students are trying to change their universities, once they land in USA, which is not going well with US authorities. According to them, because of Indian student's frequent changing universities only, many scams like Tri-Valley and North Virginia and ITU are happening. Indian students, instead of pursuing studies in the universities, for which they have been given visas, thinking they are serious students, but instead they are proving otherwise, by leaving those universities and opting for others where, study is somewhat easy with more job prospects are available, opting for online courses with and least class attendance etc, which goes against the spirit of non-immigrant F1 visa in letter and spirit, and also is against laws of the land. Students should always follow and respect the laws of the land in letter and spirit. Students should seriously pursue studies only because the degree's they are pursuing are more premium than odd jobs they are looking for. Though there's no law directly affecting student, students should not take the easy ways of making money instead of serious study for which your F1 Visa is approved.
- You might be wondering, why this long story here. Being responsible towards Indian Students community, it's Dr. Raju's duty to caution you all, as we know you are the future of Indians in Global Markets. You are our Country's Pride, representing India, outside elsewhere. Our intention is to make you understand the gravity of the situation and warn you against not visible actions against students of this kind in the coming days which will affect your future job legal options in USA. **Hence Kindly Don't Change your University in USA, once your visa is approved.**

- Select university basing on many factors mentioned below and stick to it till program is over.
- University selection should depend on reputation of the university, ranking etc.
- It's better to contact someone at the university – may be seniors, friends and friend's friends studying there, or members of the social networking groups and communities.
- You can also count on the factors like, levels of difficulty in completing degree in stipulated time, funding options available, on-campus jobs availability, credit hour fees structure, course and program structure and various areas of specialization and general and faculty research happening there research grants available etc.

What to know about University.

- Do a good research on university information in website and Graduate Catalog.
- Know about university history, about campuses, area in acres, schools, nickname etc.
- Know about your Department, infrastructure, Special labs and equipment available.
- Professors Research, any notable achievements by alumni,
- Other facilities like library and recreational, sports bodies, student communities etc.
- Student's statistics, area temperature and port of entry, how to reach university.
- Brief knowledge of place and tourist attractions, festivals in and around campus town.

Know about the Program.

- Understand the Credit / Semester /Graduate hour system applicable in your university.
- Understand the Program structure and Credits needed to complete the program.
- Understand the Grades, GPA and minimum GPA required to maintain in program.
- Understand the Thesis and Non-Thesis options available and its structure.
- Understand the Courses Numbering system
- Go through the available Courses names, like Core, Electives.
- Go through the Program and Course description to know about the courses.

Know about the Department.

- Gather complete details of Department, Chair and Dean.
- Notable achievements of department and faculty and alumni.
- Department Research.
- Go through the dept. News Letter archives to understand what's happened in recent past.
- Facilities available
- Any other important facts like dept. and faculty collaborations with local industry.

Understand the I-20

(Pronounced as Eye-Twenty)

- ❖ **I-20** Form (Commonly known as **I-20** and **Form I-20** or **I-20A-B**) will come in **3 pages**.
- ❖ **I-20** is an admission offer letter also known as Certificate of Eligibility for Non-immigrant (F1 Visa) student issued by the USA University to the International Students on the behalf of U.S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service.
- ❖ Study and understand each and every column of I-20.
- ❖ Remember it is a legal document for visa interview and visa interview depends on the things mentioned in its columns.
 - Especially **Col.5** which says Program Name, "**Normal**" **length of study in 12 / 18 / 24 / 30 / 36 months** and date of reporting.
 - **Col.7** About expenditure – Tuition, Living and Misc expenses and Total Expenses for One year program (9 – 12 months).
 - **Col.8.b** – Any funds from school, like Assistantships, Scholarships etc.
 - **Col.8.c** – Funds from sponsor.
 - **Col.9** – Special remarks like Insurance or any pre-requisites etc.
 - **Col.10** – Name of DSO with sign and date. Check for signature.

Proof of Funds

- A prospective F1 Visa Indian student at visa interview is required to demonstrate Proof of Availability of Funds.
- Visa Officer at US Embassy or Consulate need to be sure that the student can live in the US and pay his tuition fees and meet living expenses mentioned in I-20, without working.
- Proof of Availability of Funds can be demonstrated either by parent's sponsorship or by the student directly with supporting proofs.
- All funds must be readily accessible and liquid, such as
 - *Bank Savings Accounts*
 - *Bank Fixed deposits*
 - *Minimum education loan.*
 - *Government Bonds and Units.*
 - *Provident fund amount with proofs.*
 - *Surrender Value's of Insurance Policies.*
- Remember Investments, Shares with fluctuating values are generally not recommended as viable proof of funds.
- Gold is also not recommended for visa unless supported by actual purchase proofs.

How much funds to show.

- Depends on I-20 Column No's: 5 and 7 and 8
- You need to take Normal length of study as whatever mentioned in col.5 of I-20.
 - **1.0 year** (12 months),
 - **1.5 years** (18 months),
 - **2.0 years** (24 months),
 - **2.5 years** (30 months) and
 - **3.0 years** (36 months) and so on.
- For F1 visa purpose, one need to take only **Total Amount** for 1 year (as mentioned in Col.7) **Total Fees** (which includes Tuition + Living + Misc expenses) and multiply it with study period,
 - 1time for 1 year.
 - 1.5 times for 18 months,
 - 2.0 times for 2 months
 - 2.5 times for 30 months and
 - 3.0 times for 36 months.
- **Let's study an example.**

According to an I-20 of ABC University

Col.7.a - Tuition and fees -	\$ 15,000.00
Col.7.b - Living expenses -	\$ 15,000.00
Col.7.c - Expenses of dependents -	\$ 0.00
Col.7.d - Others (Specify) -	\$ 0.00

Total - \$ 30,000.00

Now let's see how much funds we need to show for this ABC University for different Normal lengths of study starting with One year to Three years.

Total expenses as per ABC University I-20 are US\$ 30,000 per year.

And let's take US\$ Exchange rate as **US\$ 1 = INR 55.00**

Total Funds required for the entire program duration for if Normal length of study is one of

12 months, 18 months

24 months , 30 months and 36 Months

- For **12 months** Normal Length of Study Program of University ABC
US\$ 30,000 x 1 time (for 12 months) x Rs.55 = Rs.16,50,000 = **Rs.16.50 Lakhs.**
- For **18 months** Normal Length of Study Program of University ABC
US\$ 30,000 x 1.5 times (for 18 months) x Rs.55 = Rs.24,75,000 = **Rs.24.75 Lakhs.**
- For **24 months** Normal Length of Study Program of University ABC
US\$ 30,000 x 2 times (for 24 months) x Rs.55 = Rs.33,00,000 = **Rs.33.00 Lakhs.**
- For **30 months** Normal Length of Study Program of University ABC
US\$ 30,000 x 2.5 times (for 30 months) x Rs.55 = Rs.41,25,000 = **Rs.41.25 Lakhs.**
- For **36 months** Normal Length of Study Program of University ABC
US\$ 30,000 x 3 times (for 36 months) x Rs.55 = Rs.49,50,000 = **Rs.49.50 Lakhs.**
- Many students think it's enough to show one year funds for Visa. That's not true; you always need to show the funds for the entire duration of the program mentioned in 5th column of I-20.
- Other way of putting it is, you need to show **One year Total expenses mentioned in I-20 as readily available funds** and **funds flow for the remaining years** - either readily available in bank savings, education loan or from future savings of family annual incomes (after meeting annual living expenses of family).
- In our opinion it's better to show more than **Two-Thirds funds readily available in Bank savings** and the remaining funds through Minimum Education loan form etc. If you are able to show the required Two-thirds of funds readily available with your savings then you can go for the big loan also.
- Never try to show funds half in Bank savings and another remaining half through Bank loan which is absolute No-No for visa.
- Some students say my senior got visa like that, half in funds and remaining half as loan. But in reality – the % of people getting visas like that is negligible. Exceptions are there in every case. One person with average profile, scores and many backlogs may get visa, but we can't apply that each and every case. May be that guy is exceptional in some other way and Visa Officer might have seen that ability and got satisfied in order to sanction visa. You can not generalize anything in US F1 Visa and need to stick to general findings or what's happening in majority cases.

Annual Incomes

- For F1 Visa seeker an average family annual income should be around 8.00 to 9.00 Lakhs as per the present day living conditions and incomes standard. And depending on College Fees structure, it may be more also.
- Parents should be natural sponsors of education for their wards. Depending on case and college fees, you can add others.
- **What constitutes annual income.** The following incomes belong to both parents and at times of other sponsors (other than parents) depending on the needs.
 - ✓ Annual salaries
 - ✓ Provident fund
 - ✓ Business incomes
 - ✓ Interest on Investments with proofs (but not shares)
 - ✓ Agricultural Income
 - ✓ Agricultural Lands Lease incomes
 - ✓ House and Property Rentals
 - ✓ Vehicle Rentals.
 - ✓ Lease income for Cellular Towers.
 - ✓ Business Partnership Incomes
- **Proofs of annual incomes** – The following are some of the income proofs for Parents and other sponsors (if any)
 - ✓ Salary Certificates,
 - ✓ Provident Funds Statements
 - ✓ Original Bonds and Investment proofs
 - ✓ Business Audited Reports
 - ✓ Business P/L Account statements
 - ✓ Individual / Form.16 (For Employee Class)
 - ✓ Business Tax Returns
 - ✓ Agriculture Income proofs from MRO or VRO
 - ✓ Property Lease Documents and
 - ✓ House rental Lease documents or Monthly Rental Receipts.
 - ✓ Bank statements showing regular salary deposits.

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Fixed Assets

- ✓ Now it has become a common practice of showing more than **One Crore** in assets form for F1 Visa.
- ✓ You can show your assets depending upon your assets market value.
- ✓ Very rarely Visa Officers are interested in this issue.
- ✓ But assets are important as the basis of economic ties to India and they may lure students to come back to India after finishing their program in USA , because of their ever increasing Market values every 5 to 10 years.

What is F1 Visa

- ✓ The word Visa is not an acronym.
- ✓ F1 visa is for the International students who want to pursue their **“Full-Time”** Program in USA Universities or to conduct Research in Accredited universities leading to Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral Degrees.
- ✓ F1 visa is a nonimmigrant visa, the type of visa which allows you to travel to a U.S. port-of-entry to request admittance from a Department of Homeland Security official for a limited stay and in the case of F1 visa which is upto the completion of the program.
- ✓ F1 visas are only issued in U.S. embassies and consulates outside the United States.
- ✓ I-20 is the base document from USA in order to apply for an F-1 visa.
- ✓ F-1 students must show that they are able to support themselves during their stay in the U.S., as their opportunities for legal employment are quite limited. F1 Visa holders can work on-campus employment of 20 hours a week or less, provided opportunities are available.

DS-160 Visa Application

- ✓ The **DS-160** form is an [Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application form](#), and each F1 visa applicant must complete and submit it in online prior to F1 Visa interview at the Embassy or Consulate.
- ✓ Link to fill online DS160 form is <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/>
- ✓ The completed DS-160 application form will generate an alpha-numeric barcode confirmation page. Print this confirmation page.
- ✓ At the beginning of the filling the DS-160 form online itself, you need to give the name of the USA Consulate you will be attending for Visa Interview.

- ✓ If you want to change the location of interview to another consulate at a later time, you need to fill another form by giving that second consulate name at the beginning need to attach that DS confirmation number at the time of visa appointment booking process.
- ✓ Our suggestion is fill two separate DS 160 forms, one each for two consulates and at the time of booking visa appointment you can attach the DS form confirmation number on which you want to attend for visa.
- ✓ The printed DS-160 confirmation page is required for the booking of appointment and also for Photograph and Fingerprinting appointment at the OFC - Offsite Facilitation Center and for the Visa Interview at the Embassy/Consulate.
- ✓ F1 Visa seekers will not be permitted to attend Visa interview without a Form DS-160 confirmation page.
- ✓ Note: When you sign your DS-160 electronically, you are certifying that all the information contained in it is true and correct.
- ✓ Misrepresenting any facts could render you ineligible to enter the United States.
- ✓ Please double-check that all your answers are accurate and that every question is answered completely.
- ✓ **Important:** While filling the DS-160 form online, If you stop working on this application for more than 20 minutes, your session will expire. You will have to start over, unless you have recorded your Application ID Number or have saved your application to a file on your computer. Write down the Application ID displayed on the top right-hand corner of the page. If you need to close the browser before submitting your application, you will need this Application ID to continue your application.

Check Dr. Raju's [How to fill DS160](#) - Video on our website www.msatus.com

Or directly in YouTube at <http://goo.gl/Vz0te>

Check the video more times and make sure that you are ready with all the details mentioned in the video, you need to enter while filling DS-160 Online, Put everything on paper and then start filling the data

Take our Consulting division expert guidance in filling DS 160 form by joining our Visa Advisory services.

The website everyone's need to go to..

www.ustraveldocs.com/in/

- ✓ This website is official USA visa information site for U.S.Mission in India.
- ✓ It will provide all links and information required for a F1 Visa seeker, especially the requirements to apply, how to pay the required visa application fee, and book an interview appointment at the U.S. Embassy in Delhi and the U.S. Consulates General in Kolkata, Chennai, Mumbai and Hyderabad.
- ✓ Your first step in the appointment booking starts by getting registered in this website.

Appointment Booking

- ✓ Start the visa interview appointment process by clicking on Apply For Visa – [Apply Now](#) Button of [ustraveldocs](#) website in the url

<http://www.ustraveldocs.com/in/index.html> or short url <http://goo.gl/XtpMm>

- ✓ Register with your login id (your email) and Password. (Keep the password safe)
- ✓ You need to keep ready the DS160 form CEAC confirmation number. (As explained in DS160 details above)
- ✓ There are two important phases in taking appointment.

First Phase

- Filling all personal details upto the Visa Fee Payment part.
- Get the fee payment receipt instructions page and take a printout of it.
- Start scheduling non-immigrant visa appointment by entering required details as per the screen and coming to the payment part you need to click on AXIS Bank and CITI Bank logo which will generate a Printable form with Barcode.
- Take a break.
- And go to bank (any Axis Bank near to you) with that printout and your passport copy to pay the fee. (Anyone can pay the fees on behalf of you.)
- Bank will verify the details linked to the instructions page with their system, and once everything is confirmed, they will accept the payment.

- And they give you a Fee Payment done receipt with a Number.
- It takes from three hours to 24 hours to activate that Receipt number with ustraveldocs website by the bank, to make you proceed to Second and final Phase of Appointment booking.
- Need to login again at ustraveldocs website.

Second Phase

As mentioned login into website and again start filling the required details. Soon you will come to a page with display of calendar with available dates highlighted and available time slots below the calendar.

One need to take Two Combined appointments at this stage.

- ✓ **First one** is for Actual Visa Interview at USA Consulate and
- ✓ **Second one** is for Biometric information where Student's fingerprints and digital photographs will be collected at the Offsite Facilitation Center (OFC) a separate place, other than USA Consulate.
- ✓ Appointment at OFC should be minimum one day before the actual interview date.
- ✓ One can take any available date for OFC appointment, before the actual interview date.
- ✓ For both Visa Interview and OFC Appointments you can select even time slot also apart from date.

Your appointment will be confirmed only when you select both appointments with time slots one after other.

Once both appointments were confirmed you will get another print form Appointments Confirmation Copy containing the appointment date, timeslots and Barcodes for both F1 Visa Interview and OFC Appointments.

Both **DS-160 Confirmation Copy** and this **Appointments Confirmation** copies are two very important documents, essential for your visa interview process. Take good quality hard copies in laser printer (mandatory) of these both.

About the Fees involved for Interview

There is actually Two Important, separate, mandatory and non-refundable or transferable fees involved in F1 Visa Interview Process.

✚ **F1 Visa Application Fees US\$ 160** in Indian Currency for single Interview appearance.

✚ **SEVIS Fees US\$ 200**, through International Credit Card in US\$

- As on today (check with www.ustraveldocs.com/in) site for latest Fee structure) F1 Visa Application fee in Indian Currency as per the prevailing rate fixed by US Consulate is as

on ____/____/2013

is INR:_____.

And is valid upto ____/____/2013

What is SEVIS Fees

- ✓ All F1 Visa Applicants need to pay a separate SEVIS fee in addition to the visa application fee. It's a **single-time payment** and is valid for **one year**.
- ✓ It needs to be paid **online** on the University Name, on which I-20, student is appearing for visa interview at the website **www.fmjfee.com**
- ✓ The **Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)** is an Internet-based system that tracks F category visa participants from the time they receive their initial documentation (I-20) until they graduate/leave school or conclude/leave program.
- ✓ SEVIS Fee should be paid by the **visa applicant only**, and got nothing to do whether student got visa or not. got accepted or not.
- ✓ You need to pay this fee at least a minimum of **5 working days before visa interview date**.
- ✓ You can change the SEVIS Fee Paid from One university to another, if you are going for visa to other university second time.

OFC Appointment

- ✓ All F1 Visa applicants are required to get fingerprinted and photographed for security and authenticity reasons.
- ✓ All F1 Visa applicants will be required to have an appointment at an Offsite Facilitation Center (OFC) prior to their appointment at the Consular Sections.
- ✓ Applicants are required to appear **in person** for an appointment at the OFC and the visa interview at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate.
- ✓ Documents to carry for OFC Appointment:
 - Passport
 - DS-160 Confirmation Page.
 - OFC cum Visa Appointment Confirmation Page.
 - Official I-20 on which attending for visa.

OFC Address in Hyderabad and Chennai

Hyderabad: (Near to USA Consulate)

1-8-384/385, Gowra Grand, S.P.Road,
Begumpet, Secunderabad - 500003

Chennai:

No 3, Cenotaph Road,
Teynampet, Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600018

At Visa Interview

- ✓ F1 Visa applicants need to appear for the Interview at least **15 minutes before** the scheduled time for both OFC and Visa Interview Appointments.
- ✓ **Personal Visa Interview** - During the Visa Interview generally a **one-to-one process**, the applicant may be asked
 - to prove his purpose of visit,
 - has enough money to survive and
 - meet the education and living expenses as per the visa class applying,
 - for the entire duration of the program,

- Who is sponsoring,
- about family's economic affordability,
- annual incomes and savings,
- education profile including backlogs, if any
- Standardized Test scores and most importantly
- is there any immigration intention is lurking somewhere in the answers etc,

Basing on which a decision can be made –

- ✓ Either Visa is **Approved** or
- ✓ **Denied** under **214 (b)** section or **212** section and
- ✓ Sometimes kept **pending** for further process under **221(g)**.

Why visa rejections happen?

Visa Applications may be denied for any number of reasons.

- Students having least or no idea of what a Visa officer will be expecting from them.
- Not able to understand every visa case is unique in nature and specific to that particular student's context and case.
- Preparing in general for visa interview process but not in a contextual way specific to his profile, universities applied, programs selected, and deciding on the particular university as destination, which proves student is trying for education in USA just to settle only, but not a serious student.
- Visas may be rejected basing on low academic profiles.
- Students unable to answer confidently.
- Students behaving utterly nervous (even though Visa officers are trying their best to put students at ease)
- Not able to come up with apt and interesting answers, but proceeding with the same old and often repeated answers published in forums and communities.
- Suddenly becoming silent and unable to provide new or further information for a question.
- Students unable to get the questions of visa officers in right way and start giving unrelated answers.
- Not able to prove they will return to India after completion of their program.
- Not able to defend their financial issues competently able to prove they have sufficient finances at hand and continuous flow of funds to meet any expenses.
- Unable to defend visa questions effectively.

- Even if they have many backlogs, not able to prove, they are trying their best to improve their profiles as much as possible. Not able to show any improvement in whatever they have done after their completion of studies so far.
 - If few visas are getting rejected continuously in the line, getting bogged down by the proceedings and losing confidence in the process.
- ✓ And above all **Potential Immigrancy** plays an important role in visa getting denied. Potential Immigrancy means, Visa officer may feel, once given visa the applicant may not leave USA and try to settle there forever for living purpose.

How to Prepare Interview

- ✓ Prepare your own answers to most commonly asked questions, with good opening lines but completely in-sync with your personal and academic profiles.
- ✓ Make sure your answers are focusing on your achievements, skills, projecting you as a sincere student, presenting proof of having sufficient funds readily available and most important, your intentions of coming back to India after completion of your program.
- ✓ Don't try to cover your Mistakes and faults. Accept them and show you are trying to improve.
- ✓ Rehearse your own answers to common and specific questions, by taking mock interview sessions with your friends, family people, and have their opinions and reviews and if you still feel you are lacking at some points, try to improve them till you become perfect. You shouldn't go to visa with loose ends and doubts.
- ✓ Know your strengths and weaknesses, and then try to overcome them in interviews by good preparation and practice beforehand. Practice makes perfect. This is absolutely true in visa sense.
- ✓ Practice to speak at slow pace but with clarity and in possible high pitch to you and try sound as natural as possible.
- ✓ Listen to the question carefully. Your answers should reflect a good clarity of thought, and have a good logical flow between various points you want to present.
- ✓ Don't try to put any phony or acquired accent while answering. Be your usual and natural self and answer in your usual style and in your natural accent.
- ✓ Read your financial documents thoroughly and ask yourself all possible questions. Check all possibilities.
- ✓ You should be able to defend and support the various facts of your documents be it academics, test scores and financial documents to the maximum level possible for you.

- ✓ Carry all documents in an order, in a folder with multiple pouches (Like Harmonium folder). So you can put different set of documents into different pouches, as it will be very easy for you to remove and present them to VO, without any time waste, whenever asked for. The speed at which you are able to show the relevant document(s) whenever asked for, also counts a lot in visa decision, which shows you are organized.
- ✓ Don't bother even if Visa officer is not looking at you. It's not your concern. Just keep on answering.
- ✓ While answering the questions (or even when not answering), remember to look at the VO instead of looking down or looking away.
- ✓ Keep continuous eye contact with visa officer throughout the interview. Keep looking at the VO and don't bother about other happenings or usual proceedings of consulate in the room or at other interview counters.
- ✓ Look at VO when he/she is speaking. Don't look away at any point of time while answering or listening.
- ✓ Feel like, there's nobody between you and VO, and nothing exists in this world of your visa between you and VO.
- ✓ Don't become conscious of others looking at you either watching or listening. Remember it's your visa and your future. This is very important.
- ✓ On final note, thank Visa Officer for his time.

Golden Rules for Visa on final note:

- Looking good and confident, Looking disciplined and organized.
- Create interest in VO towards you with interesting & intelligent answers.
- Sounding natural in accent and communication.
- Maintaining eye-to-eye contact with VO throughout interview.
- Staying positive throughout.
- Showing clarity of thought and logical flow in expressing views.
- Speaking "Loud & Clear" with confidence.
- Having good presence of mind.
- Showing good knowledge about your area of interest, and good and credible future career plans in India after completion of the program.
- Proving you as a serious student in studies.
- Add a little bit of sense of humor.
- Exude professionalism in whatever you do &
- Smile and put Visa Officer always at ease whenever possible.

Common F1 Visa Interview Question

- Which College? Why this College? Why you need MS? Why US? Why only US?
- How many Colleges you applied? How many you got? How many rejections and Why?
- How did you select these 4 / 5 / 6 Colleges from more than 2000 colleges in USA?
- Tell about your application process? Took any consultancies help in this regard?
- Why this particular college only? Why not any other in your admits or acceptances?
- Compare the programs of your admits?
- What is your Area of Interest or Specialization? What future that area has in India?
- Why that particular area of specialization? And tell about that area of specialization?
- Tell about your undergraduate or graduate project? What's your role in it?
- How this program is going to help you?
- Tell about your - College, Department, Campus, Town, labs, Facilities and Weather?
- Tell about your college accreditations? What is the port of entry for this college?
- What are your plans after Masters?
- Why you will come back to India? What's the need? Why don't you work in USA?
- It seems you are a potential immigrant? Or you look like potential immigrant?
- It seems you took the help of a consultant? Or I am sure you went to consultancy. Why?
- Tell about Academic %? Pretty Average Academics (if low) why?
- Why are you changing your field of study or major (if changing)?
- How many backlogs? Why this many backlogs? With this many backlogs I am sure that you can never come upto the standards of American education.
- Why your score is low? Why your Verbal is low? Why IELTS instead of TOEFL? (if taken)
- With this profile (if profile is low), you can't come up to the US Education standards?
- How you prepared for Standardized Tests? Why don't you improve scores and come back?
- Why don't you improve your profile (if low) by getting work experience and come back?
- I am sure you will change your college once in USA? (if going to average schools)
- Who is sponsoring you? What are they doing? Tell about their job/business/agriculture?
- What is your family's annual income? How much your father earns?
- Do you have any proof for your incomes?
- How you are planning to fund your program? How you meet the expenses of your program?
- Have you taken any loan? How you pay back that loan (if taken)?
- You should have taken loan?
- It seems you are taking all of your parent's money. How they survive? What about siblings?
- (If working) Since when, Designation, Duties, Salary, Tell About company? Why leaving job?
- (If not working but had a gap) what are you doing - since last __years, since your exams?

Dear student,

The Questions List is endless, but these are often repeated questions in F1- Visa Interview. There may be other questions also, particular to student's background, financials and circumstances.

If you take our Visa advisory Service – before coming for Visa interview mock sessions, you need to prepare for all these in your own way and we will fine tune your answers to the best of our abilities as per your profile and case context. We will also help you in finding other questions you may get based on your scenario.

We will prepare you as a better and confident person to face and answer any question confidently through our mock sessions.

It's a promise of the quality of Dr. Raju's services with profound knowledge in whatever we do.

"Reach us to reach U.S."

Our Visa advisory services include

**Visa Application Guidance,
Financial Advice,
Personalized Counseling,
Documentation Checking and
One-to-One Mock Interviews.**

.....reach 'us' to reach "U.S."

F1 Visa Interview Checklist

Mandatory Documents for Visa Officer:

1. **Passport.**
2. University **I-20**. (**Duly signed by student**) (No need of Parent signature)
3. **SEVIS Payment Receipt** for US\$200 Print-out (I -901)
4. Axis or City **Bank Receipt** of USA Visa Fee for US\$160 in INR.
5. Visa Interview **Appointment Confirmation** Copy.
6. **DS-160** Barcode Page - **CEAC Confirmation** Copy.
7. **GRE** or **GMAT** Score Report (+) **TOEFL** or **IELTS** Score Report.

Educational:

1. Degree / PG **Original** Convocation and / Or Provisional Certificate.
2. Degree / PG **Individual** and **Semester-wise** Marks Sheets.
3. Degree / PG **CMM** – Consolidated Marks Memo.
4. Inter / CBSE Plus Two Marks Memo. (Optional)
5. SSC / CBSE Marks Memo. (Optional)
6. Any Certificates of Courses taken / Curricular Activities
7. Paper Publications (if any).
8. Any Achievements and Appreciation Materials or Certificates.
9. **Other I-20's** Recd or Confirmation mails of Acceptances and Rejections.

Financials:

(Whatever is available and applicable) (Don't give any documents unless asked for)

1. All Savings Accounts **Bank Balance Certificates** within 7 to 10 days from the date of interview.
2. Six months Computer **Transactions** / Passbooks of all Savings Accounts.
3. Bank **Fixed Deposits** in **Originals** + **Provident Fund** Balance Certificate (if available).
4. Other **Savings**, Govt. Bonds, KVP, Postal Deposits & Other Tax Saving Certificates Originals.
5. Insurance or LIC **Surrender Value** Certificates within 1 week to 10 days before visa Interview.
6. Education **Loan** Letter in Original.
7. **Salary** Certificates of Parents and Other Sponsors (if employed)
8. If Students is working – Appointment Letter, Latest Pay Slip, Form.16 Tax Returns etc.
9. Other Income Proof Certificates of Business, Agriculture (MRO or VRO) and House Rentals.

10. IT - Income Tax Returns or Form.16 whichever is applicable - Latest + Old ones if available.
11. If in Business, Profit / Loss Account Balance Copies.
12. Originals / Copies - Agricultural Lands Papers, Patta Pass Books & Assets like Houses, Plots & Business Establishments like Factories etc with Licenses (if any).
13. CA - Chartered Accountants Statement (if taken, but not necessary in general).
14. CE - Chartered Engineer's Properties Valuation Statement (if taken, but not necessary).
15. Business / Visiting Cards of Parents, Sponsors, and Students (if applicable) & Business Brochures and Other promotional Materials (if applicable).
16. Any other document students feel may help their visa issuance.

If you want professional grade personal One-to-one Visa Consulting and guidance with more than 90% success rate, enroll with us at Dr.Raju's Visa Advisory services.

Dr.Raju's Team

In Visa Interview Visa officers rely more on your answers and not interested in seeing your documents.

In fact many students claim, not even single document was checked, except the Mandatory Documents mentioned in the above list.

Even Visa officers are saying in many interviews and press briefings, we don't want to see any of your documents, and you just need to convince us through your answers only. The documents you will be carrying are just supportive in nature only.

You need to carry all the documents, even VO's are not interested, as at times to check your answers, they may ask for documentary proofs.

According to US Consulate, Hyderabad

What factors are taken into consideration when deciding student visas and how can students be successful?

US Consulate, Hyderabad:

Students must **prove** to the officer that they're **qualified** for the student visa.

Here's what you need:

1. A **genuine desire** and **intent** to **study** (meaning studying is the primary reason for your travel),
2. A **credible** plan for **finances** (which can be tough as graduate school in America is a significant investment), and
3. An **intent** to **return** to India (which means that you must **prove** to the officer that you **aren't using** the student visa for economic or immigration purposes.)

You really have to **convince**, you are a student first and foremost, with the purpose of **getting** a world-class education, and **separate yourself** from the many students who are more interesting in working or play on a student visa.

There is **more to** above statement **than meets the eye**. You need to **read between the lines**. Complete Visa issues have been covered in this simple answer by a VO. Meet us to understand the **intricacies** of F1 Visa. We at Dr.Raju's make you understand various **facets** of student visa and **demystify** the whole process. We advise you, guide you & take you on the '**Best possible way**' to approach visa as per **your case context**.

Dr.Raju's Visa Advisory Services

Our services include

**Visa Application Guidance,
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Disclaimer: This document is for the purpose and use for Indian Students only, who want to apply for F1 category visa in India itself in order to pursue their education in the United States of America. This is only a general information document but not a professional publication. Our intention is to make you (the reader, viewer and user of this document) understand various facts and facets of F1-Visa process. All the ideas and views expressed by Dr. Raju's Team and author here in this document are personal views only and in no way should be treated as our professional advice. If "you" (the intended user of this document) are relying on any information of this document, I hereby state that either Dr. Raju's Educational Pvt. Ltd. Hyderabad and author is in no way responsible for any loss or damages, distress, troubles, trauma or injuries resulting - like financial, emotional, physical, any other visa related and legal problems arising like any denial of visa, withheld of visa and any other unforeseeable related problems and issues caused because of using this document.

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