

# USA INTERVIEW QUESTION AND ANSWER

1. Afternoon officer, here is my I-20 and passport.
2. **Why are you going to the US/ Why USA?**
  - To do a PhD in Computer Science. I will work on Computer vision. And my PhD is fully funded.
3. **How did you come to know about this university?**
  - I learned about this university from my elder brother, who is currently studying at UAlbany.
4. **Why did you select this university?**
  - I chose the University at Albany because it's an R1 research university, and I received full funding. My research interests align closely with Professor Prabhakaran. Additionally, my elder brother is already studying there, which will help me adjust easily. *Albany is a peaceful city yet close to New York City, offering a balance of focus and opportunity.*
5. **How many universities did you apply to?**
  - 7 universities.
  - *First selected 6 universities to apply, but unfortunately missed 1 university's priority application deadline(NYU, Binghamton University, University at Albany, Univ. of California - Merced, Mississippi State University, UTA). Later, I found two universities (the University of Virginia and, University of Pittsburgh) that required no application fee, so I also applied to those two. In total, 7 universities.*
6. **What does your father do?**
  - He is a businessman. He trades in agricultural products like paddy, corn, jute, etc. Besides this, he also owns an LPG gas distribution depot. From this depot, LPG cylinders are supplied to the surrounding districts. *The depot provides land and infrastructure support depending on which company we are partnered with at the time.*
7. Do you have any relatives in the USA?
  - Yes, my elder brother is in the U.S., pursuing his Ph.D.
8. Which University?
  - Same university, UAlbany.
9. **What is your plan after a PhD? / What is your future plan?**
  - Currently, my focus is fully on my PhD (laugh). However, I have a long-term research goal. I desire to build a research lab on computer vision and work with my country's students. So, I plan to be a professor.
10. Do you have any travel history?
  - Yes. I have traveled 2 times to Singapore and 1 time to India.
11. Do you think that you deserve to get an F1 visa?
  - Yes!! I have full funding, a top score in the GRE Quantitative section, strong research experience, and a good TOEFL score. If you consider my last public exam, where all the national students sit, I was among the top1.2%.
12. **Why don't you study in your country/ Why have you chosen the USA to pursue a PhD?**

- Because Research opportunities in computer vision are limited in my country. While the facility and research quality are the best in the USA. Students all over the world go there; it offers a great community to study and research.

**13. Did you apply centrally, or did you arrange funding through a professor?**

- I applied centrally and got an admission letter. Then I reached out to Professor Prabhakaram and told him that I am Interested to work under his supervision and got the RA.

**14. What kind of research are you interested in?**

- I am interested in computer vision. My research plan is to utilize ML models for computer vision, especially in the field of AR-VR. May I explain more?

15. That's great. Can you tell me specifically what his research focuses on?

- So, if a designer tries to design a 3D virtual environment manually, then it takes a long time. Making the process easier and faster is very important. There are many methods for this purpose, like 3d reconstruction, generative AI. Still, a lot of research is needed in this field, and I want to contribute there.

16. How did you manage to get the assistantship?

- I already had an admission offer at UAlbany, and then I emailed Professor Prabhakaran that I am interested in working with him. I have explained that I have research experience in ML and computer vision, and how this knowledge can be used with his research work.

**17. You said you are fully funded. Then why is there a deficit in your I-20?**

- Actually, my funding letter includes all my living and academic costs for Spring 26. The funding will again be renewed in fall 26, as per the letter. As the fall funding amount is not written yet, that creates a deficit in the document.

**18. How will you manage your deficit?**

- Though there is a deficit shown in the I-20, I don't have to pay anything out of my pocket; I am fully funded. May I explain about my funding?
- 17

19. Okay. And who is your supervisor?

- Professor Balakrishnan Prabhakaran.

**20. What's your role in your current company?**

- I work as a Software engineer, where I develop Windows applications using C++ for controlling semiconductor metrology equipment.

21. Who is gonna finance your education?

- My university will bear all my living and educational costs. I can explain the deficit shown in the i20 if you want.

22. How will you manage the cultural and educational differences in the US?

- I am already working in a multinational company where I talk to people of different cultures regularly. I have colleagues from the USA, Taiwan, China, Singapore, the Philippines, etc. And about education, I am already prepared well to take the challenges of a PhD.

23. What will you do if your Visa is rejected?

- I will try again. My motivation to pursue a PhD is very strong, and the United States remains my first choice.

**24. How can a PhD boost your career?**

- I want to be a professor and a researcher. So, a PhD is my next step towards the goal.

**25. Why don't you want to work in the USA?**

- I value the knowledge and experience I will gain during my PhD in the U.S., but my long-term goal is to contribute to my country's research and education sector. I want to apply what I will learn to help advance local innovation.
26. When did you graduate?
- Academics ended by Feb 2023, and the degree was awarded by May 2023
27. Why a PhD? Why not masters?
- I have clear long-term research goals. A PhD is more meaningful to achieve that.
28. Which courses will you enroll in?
- This decision has not yet been taken. I have to plan with my advisor. But as there are 4 mandatory courses, I am thinking of taking those courses first.
  - 4 mandatory courses which are in total 13 credits and are encouraged to be completed in the 1st year. I have 9 credit tuition waiver for spring 26. (Csi 500 Operating Systems(3), Csi 503 Algorithms and Data Structures (3), Csi 518 Software Engineering (4), Csi 609 Advanced Formal Languages and Theory of Computation (3). CGPA must be 3.0 on average in these 4.)
29. Minimum requirements to maintain your Assistantship?
- Minimum CGPA is 3.0, but I should try to get at least 3.5 to stay away from any uncertainty. Should be enrolled as a full-time student, and assistant duties should be done satisfactorily. Can not be involved in any other kind of work on or off campus unless approved by the department.
30. Why did you go to Singapore?
- For working on an office project as a software engineer.
31. Will your parents visit you there?
- Yes, they want to visit us while we are studying in the USA.
32. Did your father and mother apply for a USA visa?
- Yes, they plan to visit while we are studying in the U.S.
  - They intend to apply for a B2 visa, but no interview date has been confirmed yet as far as I know.
33. What will be your role as an RA?
- As an RA, I will be doing research, data analysis, literature review, and assisting with faculty-led research projects.
34. What will you specialize in for your degree?
- My specialization will be in applying computer vision in the field of AR and VR
35. Why are you planning to continue your education?
- I am motivated to create a research lab and work with my country's students.
36. Why did you choose the United States of America? Why not choose Canada or Australia?
- Research facilities and quality are best in the United States of America. Most qualified students all over the world go there, which offers a great community to work with. Additionally, my elder brother is there, which will help me to adjust quickly.

MY STRONG POINT THAT I MUST SAY:

GRE QUANT 166, TOEFL 101, FULL FUNDING IN R1 UNIVERSITY, LAST PUBLIC EXAM

INSIDE TOP 1.2%, TRAVEL TO SINGAPORE INDIA, BROTHER IN USA F1, GOOD RESEARCH EXPERIENCE, SOFTWARE ENGINEER FOR 2+ YEARS

Address where you will stay in the U.S. :	1395 WASHINGTON AVE APT 115
City, State, Postal/Zip Code:	ALBANY, NEW YORK 12206
Person/Entity Paying for Your Trip:	SELF
State/Province:	DOES NOT APPLY
Postal Zone/ZIP Code:	1216
Country/Region:	BANGLADESH
Course of Study:	COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
Date of Attendance From:	01 JANUARY 2019
Date of Attendance To:	01 FEBRUARY 2023
Do you belong to a clan or tribe?	NO