

# US Student VISA Interview Questions

*Note: The following are some of the important questions along with answers. Please consider them as a frame of reference and tailor your answers according to your academic profile, university, course and city.*

## **WHY UNITED STATES OF AMERICA?**

### **1. Why US? Or why are you going to US?**

A: Hook Statement:

United States is a technologically advanced country /United States is the pioneer of Machine Learning and Advanced Technology/ United States is the home to world's top-ranking institutions when it comes to **your field**/ US universities are renowned and acclaimed globally. 80% of world's research is carried out in US. Naturally, US is the obvious choice for **field name** student.

Supporting Statements:

The curriculum is updated which ensures quality of education and enables any undergraduate/graduate aspirant to acquire exact skills that the industry needs today. US have state-of-the-art research facilities with well-experienced, multi-patent holder professors and will enable me to participate in ground-breaking research. US provide advanced laboratory specialties/ latest infrastructure facilitating real-time projects and emphasize more on practical training rather than theoretical approach. The country is culturally diverse and welcomes a student population from over 150 countries.

Closing statement:

When talking about my course **XYZ**, more research is particularly going on which will give me an added advantage over others when I return to India.

### **2. Why do you wish to study in US and not in India? Or why specifically US?**

**Why did you select US for higher studies? Isn't this course offered by any university or college in**

A: Although India has some finest institutions, the main reason behind opting for US is the abundant resources at an advanced level than any other country in the world. When specifically talking about my field which is XYZ, the knowledge, research, facilities and resources in India are limited or not offered in India or offered in only a few colleges/ universities (whichever is the case). Additionally, this university offers my specialization of interest and a combination of subjects which isn't found elsewhere. This in turn will help me in becoming an asset when I (return back to India/ I start my business/ join the MNCs).

### **3. What is the purpose of your trip?**

**A:** To study bachelors/masters in **specialization** name at **XYZ** University. *(If the VO pauses, it indicates an elaborate answer is in order and you will continue with the answer of Why US question that is answer no. 1)*

## **ABOUT UNIVERSITY AND COURSE**

### **4. How many admits or rejects do you have? or Which universities accepted/rejected you?**

A: Sir, **X** admits from University **A**, University **B** and University **C**. *(speak only what is asked: if it is about admits, answer only about admits unless asked otherwise)*

**5. How many universities did you apply to? Or How many US universities did you apply for?**

A: I applied to 5/6 universities.

**6. Have you ever been to US before? Or have you been to US in the last 5 years?**

A: "NO" Sir. This is my first visit / "YES" Sir. I have been to US once for a vacation or trip.

**7. Which university are you planning to go to and for which course?**

A: I intend to take admission in **X** university for **Y** course.

**8. Why particularly that University? Or why have you chosen this specific university?**

A: **XYZ** University because/ The first thing that attracted me the most is its flexible course curriculum. Amongst all the universities that I applied, the unique combination of subjects and selection of non-mandatory subject is set in an excellent progression which will ease the flow of entire course. Furthermore, inclusive teaching methods by award-winning professors like A and B or I have read a few research papers by Dr. A which exactly matches my area of interest and it would be a great privilege to join his team. There is active research going on in my field of specialization which will fulfill my primary goal of attaining expertise in practical aspects rather than just theoretical ones. Also, it provides a collaborative/non-thesis/thesis-based program with industrial tie ups with MNCs like **XYZ** that will help me in gaining insights into the real world and learn about new innovations. High-tech laboratory specialties and tools are provided to cater to current market conditions. **X** number of Nobel laureates has been produced by this University or has an incredible alumni network. Thus, making it my ideal choice.

*Note: if mentioning about number of labs, try to remember all the names of labs.*

*Idea Generation: You can also talk about how an undergraduate degree is going to be the foundation of your career and this university will help you strengthen just that by providing a comprehensive course. A graduate belonging to STEM fields can talk about Industry 4.0 skills, Medical Science students can talk about patented cures of diseases pertaining to their majors that they have done or are going to choose henceforth. Commerce and business students can talk about famous start-ups and successful bureaucrats and businessmen from this University.*

**9. Why this university over others?**

A: **XYZ** University is considered best school for your specialization/ I carefully went through the web-pages of all the selected universities. The main factor that impressed me here was its outstanding faculty reputation. This University conducts active research in my area. These universities rank within top 50 in my field of study. As I mentioned earlier, Dr. X's work has been a motivational drive behind my selection. The courses offered from these universities are more in line with my future goals and areas of interest. My long-term goal is to ABC, it will further assist me in getting into the international market with required knowledge, skillsets, and expertise.

**10. Why have you applied to these universities only?**

**A:** All the universities I applied to are public universities (*mention only if that's the case*) and are actively conducting research in my area. These universities rank within top 50 in my field of study. The courses offered from these universities are more in line with my long-term career goals.

**11. Where did you hear about this university? Or how did you come to know about this University? Or how did you find out about this University?**

**A:** I came to know about this university through my undergrad/grad professor who did his PhD in this university/ I came to know about this university through my senior or friend who graduated from this university/ I came to know about this university through a colleague at my work or from a fair held at X place/ Through internet platforms like Yocket, yahoo and google.

**12. Tell me about the university you are going? Or can you tell me some details about the university?**

**A:** *Go thoroughly through university's entire website including your department and 3-4 internet search results for the same. Mention 2-3 unique and distinguishing feature of your university.*

My university offers multiple courses at undergraduate, graduate and doctoral levels in fields like engineering, medical sciences, liberal arts and so on. It has around X number of departments spread across Y number of buildings (*optional*). It ranks **A** in **Field name** according to *Forbes magazine/in the state/ American Education Society* in **year**. It supports approximately **X** million in research in this field. Its campus is **X** acres which is the largest in State/Country. University professors hold publications at international level with doctoral degrees and some of their researches are implemented in **Medicine/Aerospace/Army etc.** On top of that, it offers multicultural student community from more than 56 countries.

**13. Mention some professor's names?**

**A:** Dr. X, Dr. Y, Dr. Z.

**14. How will this course help your future? Why masters?**

**A:** My aim is to work for companies like **XYZ** and make a place into the higher positions or hierarchies in this organizations/ My motto is to expand my father's business internationally or dominate in the national market which further necessitates higher education/ This course will aid me in applying the strategies and skills that I would learn into the **X** business that I want to set up after returning to my home country. The advanced skillsets like **XYZ** that this course would provide will definitely give me an international edge over others and enable me to work successfully as a **Job position**. Masters because I have done my bachelors in this field and while working/ interning at XYZ, I came to know that my skills in this area are lacking/ I have touched only the basics and fundamentals of **X previous field**. So, to get in-depth knowledge and attain expertise I wish to pursue masters.

**15. Why are you changing your field of education? Or why that specialization only?**

**A:** Case 1- When you are going for a total unrelated field to your previous degree

It was in due course of my lectures/ 3rd year of undergraduate degree/ internship, when I was given a responsibility of X, I came to realization that my genuine interest and passion lie in Y field. Moreover, **X (previous field)** finds its application in **Y (chosen field)** too. Although being different, my concentration is

an amalgamation of both **X** and **Y** for example (*give a project, start-up or recent innovation name wherein both fields can be mentioned*).

Case 2- When you are going for an inter-related field to your previous degree

I am not really changing my major but **X** and **Y** are inter-connected/ interlinked to each other/ are subset of each other. **X** deals with A side of the subject whereas **Y** deals with B side (state how the two are related by simply giving the definition). Hence, in broader sense, **chosen field** is an umbrella term where my bachelor's degree has its applications like **X, Y, Z**.

**16. Tell me the research topics going in the university, where you are going now?**

**A:** Go through your university and your department website and prepare few sentences about those. If it isn't available on your website, go through the google search / top universities websites like MIT and Stanford/ enter Ongoing research projects in the university's search engine/ you can also visit professor's profile on the university's website.

**17. What are names of the companies tied up with the university?**

**A:** From university website.

**18. Did you get any scholarship? What do you think the university is giving scholarship to you?**

**A:** Yes, I got a scholarship of X dollars per annum or semester. I don't know the exact reasons, but I guess they might have considered my strong academic record & excellent standardized scores of **X** in GRE, **Y** in TOEFL.

**19. What is the course structure & contents? Or tell me about the course curriculum? Or what subjects you are going to select in first semester?**

**A:** It is two years course; it is having the following modules: 1. a... 2. b... 3. c... 4. d... 5. e... Etc. In addition, with these modules, they facilitate to do the industrial project in the last six months. The course comprises of **X** credits for mandatory subjects and **Y** credits for Elective subjects. I'll be study subjects **X, Y, Z** in the first semester. Mention if it's a thesis/non-thesis-based program/co-op/collaborative program (*For this answer everybody must refer the university website i.e. I-20 university*)

**20. What is the scope of your course?**

**A:** The chosen area of my majors is currently in high demand. Also, due to functions in various areas like X, Y, Z, its need is not going to decrease anytime soon. In the coming two decades, I can flourish in this industry with job roles and responsibilities like XYZ wherein I would be able to become an asset to my desired MNC with my global standards/ I intend to set up my firm which would add me up to Indian economy in better prospects.

**21. What is the course commencement date?**

**A:** Refer acceptance letter/ I-20 form/university website.

**22. What is the mascot of this university?**

**A:** It is **X**. (*search on your respective university website*)

## **ACADEMIC CANDIDATURE**

**23. When did you get your bachelor's degree? Or when did you graduate?**

A: I graduated in **month year**.

**24. What IS your previous education? Or What is your academic background? Or what have you done for graduation?**

A: I graduated with **X Course Y** university in **year** and planning to specialize in **Z** (*major/concentration*).

**25. Where did you complete your bachelor's degree?**

**When did you complete your Bachelor's degree?**

**What is your Percentage?**

A: From **X University / X** institute affiliated to **Y** university.

In May 2002.

66%.

**26. What is your CGPA/GPA?**

A: CGPA is out of **10** and GPA is out of **4**.

**27. Tell me about your Bachelors/undergraduate Project? Or have you done any project in *master's specialization*?**

A: The title of my project is **X**. My project's aim was to do **Y**. It comprises of or consists of **XYZ** components. IT has applications in **Z** / Say yes if you have done and no, if not. (*Say the abstract*)

**28. What is your IELTS/GRE/TOEFL/PTE/GMAT/SAT/ACT/Duolingo score?**

A: say your score.

(Remember the full forms and formats of all your standardized tests:

**IELTS**- International English Language Testing System

**GRE**- Graduate Record Examination

**TOEFL**- Test of English as a Foreign Language

**PTE**- Pearson Test of English

**GMAT**- Graduate Management Admission Test

**MCAT**- Medical College Admission Test

**SAT**- Scholastic Assessment Test

**ACT** - American College Testing)

**29. How many backlogs you have? Why backlogs?**

A: I had **X** backlogs due to medical issues in my **Y** semester. I was suffering from **Z** disease and so wasn't able to attend the examinations. (*Mention appropriate reason according to your circumstance*)

**30. Do you have any plans to study PhD/Masters after bachelors/masters?**

A: No, I don't have any such plans at this time.

**31. How long will you study in USA?**

A: Till month year.

**FAMILY AND FINANCIAL BACKGROUND**

**32. Who is sponsoring/funding you? Or how will you finance your studies?**

A: My father/parents are sponsoring me. *(In case of loan: Additionally, we have taken a loan from XYZ and have secured a scholarship worth X dollar yearly, if either or both is the case)*

**33. What does your father do? Or what is your father's occupation? Or what do they do? Or what exactly is your father's business?**

A: He is a businessman / He is a government official/ He is working as X at Y firm.

My father is an X at Y company name, and My mother is a homemaker.

Describe the business of your father with his role in brief and what kind of company he runs and at what scale, mention if it has any branches in multiple cities.

**34. What is your father's annual income? Or What is your mother's annual income?**

A: He earns X lakhs per year, or She earns X lakhs per year.

**35. What is your annual family income and how much savings or readily available money you have? Or how will your father manage your expenses?**

A: It is X lakhs per annum, and we have X lakhs in our savings bank account.

Apart from my father's annual income, we have Rs. X lakhs in our savings account and liquid/movable and immovable assets worth Rs. Y in form of gold investment/stocks/mutual funds/PPF/ agricultural land/rental income of Y lakhs. *(If this is the case, mention according to the properties you have or the way you are going to manage)*

**36. Do you have any siblings? What do they do?**

A: Yes, I have 2 younger brothers/ No, I am the only child of my parents/No, I don't have any siblings.

**37. How many employees work under your father?**

A: X number of employees are working under my father.

**38. What is the name of your family/father's business? Where is it located?**

A: It is XYZ. It is in XYZ.

**39. Have you got any loans?**

A: Yes, I have taken a loan from XYZ. No, I haven't taken any loan.

**40. Do you have any relatives in US?**

A: No, I don't have any immediate relatives in the US/ Yes, my aunt/uncle lives there.

**41. Who prepared all your financial documents?**

A: My parents and their auditors prepared all my financial documents.

**42. Where will you stay in the US?**

A: I haven't decided yet, after getting my visa approved, I'll plan accordingly/ if my visa is approved, I plan to stay in XYZ. *(Mention nearby or your decided areas of residence in US)*

**43. Do you have to repay this money to your parents?**

A: There's no need to pay this money to my parents.

**44. What is the total course fee? Or What is the per semester fee? Or What is the yearly expense of the University?**

A: Mention 2 years tuition fee according to I20 for total fee.

**45. How will you repay the loan?**

A: My parents will repay the loan/ (in case your parents are retired: I'll repay it after getting my job)

**46. What is the EMI of your loan?**

A: Education loan is X lakhs, Y EMIs i.e., Z thousand per month.

**47. Do your parents pay I.T and How much?**

A: Mention according to I.T returns of your parents.

**48. How much is your accommodation expense?**

A: It is X dollars yearly/ It is Y dollar for 2 years.

**49. What kind of properties does your father have?**

A: We have agricultural land, flats, shops, commercial units, real estate. (Mention which ever applies to your case)

**WORK RELATED**

**50. Why are you leaving your current job?**

A: I'm not leaving my current job. But/On the other hand, it is motivating me to pursue masters. During this experience, I came across the concept of X, in which my knowledge is lacking/ I was given the responsibility of Y (technical responsibility of your field related to your master's course) and developed a curiosity about it and hence, the plan to study masters Or I am leaving my job for my higher education as my knowledge of X is limited, I intend to gain in depth knowledge of **specialization name**.

**51. Do you plan to work after masters?**

A: No, I don't plan to work after masters/ I haven't decided yet but if I'm presented with an opportunity that exactly matches my area of interest, I'll work for 6 months or a year before returning to India/ Yes, I plan to work only for 1 year during my OPT period and then return to India.

**52. What was annual salary during your current job?**

A: It was X lakhs pr annum.

**53. Which company were you working for and what were your responsibilities in this job? Or do you have any work experience?**

A: I was working for X company and my responsibilities were Y/ Yes, I have X years of work experience as an X.

**COMEBACK and MISCELLANEOUS:**

**54. What is your future-plan after completion of your studies? Or what are your long-term plans?**

A: I wish to join MNCS or tech-giants like XYZ at any middle level career position with higher standard and package/ I wish to open my own hospital in my hometown or join institutes like XYZ/ I am planning to apply my skills and strategies to my family business and expand it nationally after taking the benefit of my father's life-long experience. *(Mention the position and company names according to your profile)*

**55. List companies in India where you can get opportunities?**

A: List out the names according to your field of specialization in masters.

**56.How much money can you earn after doing masters from USA?**

A: It can be anywhere around X lakhs per annum.

**57. How can you convince me that you are not a prospective immigrant?**

A: My only intention to go to US is for getting quality education and emerge as a skilled professional. Also, my entire family. Relatives and friends live in India. My father has properties in India which I must look after soon. Being the only or eldest son/daughter, I want to take care of my parents as they'll be reaching their retirement age after 3 years and will need constant care and attention. So, there's no reason to stay back in US.

**58. In case of campus selections, you are selected then what will you do? Or do you plan to work after graduation?**

A: I will return to India as I'm planning to join MNCs in India/ I will take up the opportunity only if the work matches my area of interest and will take it for gaining some international experience otherwise will return to India. I will look if the companies have any headquarters in India.



**59. Do you know anything about OPT/CPT?**

A: I have limited knowledge about OPT and CPT. I know their full forms which are Curriculum Practical Training and Optional Practical Training. I'll learn about in my international orientation.

**60. Have you hired any consultant for admission and visa processing?**

A: I haven't sought any professional assistance but have taken help from my seniors and friends who are in USA.

**61. What website you used for paying the SEVIS fee and how much did you pay?**

A: I used the website X and paid Y dollars.