



VISA Best Practices

Interview at the US Embassy

What to Bring With You to the Visa Interview

- Passport
- Required photo(s) of identification
- Visa fee or proof of visa fee payment
- Federal SEVIS I901 Fee payment receipt
- U.S. non-immigrant visa application forms (unless you will complete it at the consulate or embassy)
- California Flight Academy welcome letter
- California Flight Academy SEVIS I-20
- Proof of financial support
- Evidence of ties to your home country
- Any other documents required by the embassy or consulate

* Strategies for the Visa Appointment

You are well advised to consider the following matters prior to your visa appointment, as you may be asked about each item.

- Academics: Be definite and clear about your educational plans.
- English: Anticipate that the visa interview will be conducted in English.
- Ties to Your Home Country: Demonstrate convincing reasons for consular officials to believe that you intend to return home after finishing your studies in the United States.
- Financial Documentation: Be prepared to prove financial ability to pay for your education and living expenses.
- Be concise: Because of the volume of visa applications, all consular officials are under considerable pressure to conduct a quick and efficient interview.
- Not all countries are the same: Applicants from countries suffering economic problems or from countries where many students have remained in the United States as immigrants will have more difficulty getting visas.
- 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 United States in order to support them, your student visa will surely be denied.

* Visa Denial

The vast majority of students will be successful in obtaining their student visas. Despite this, a small number of students may have their visa applications denied.

The most common reasons for visa denial are:

- failure to prove sufficient ties to your home country, or
- failure to provide sufficient evidence of financial support

The USCIS officer must verbally inform you of the reason for the visa denial. If your visa is denied, please send an e-mail message to dcook@flycfa.com and provide the date and location of your visa interview, and details regarding the reason given by the officer for the denial.