

Tips for a successful US Visa interview

Important to understand: Visa officers are trained to assume you intend to stay in the USA: it's up to you to prove otherwise. The interview will last no more than two minutes. Visa officers often decide whether to approve or deny a visa within 45 seconds, so your attitude and answers are key.



Know your university

and program, including the curriculum and any specializations



Know your finances

and how you will cover US study and living costs



Know your career plans

and the outcomes of your intended degree



DO

Apply for university I-20s as early as possible

Pay attention when filling out the DS160 visa application: if in doubt, ask for help

Give clear answers that contain information about your decision making process, especially why you chose this university

Remember you will be interviewed by an American, so it's important to be positive, confident and make genuine eye contact

Be natural in your answers and authentic with your study intentions



DON'T

Submit any false documents

Complete the visa forms incorrectly

Conceal information or provide incorrect information during the visa interview

Ask AI chatbots what to say in visa interviews — sounding scripted will lead to a visa denial

Use an answer that sounds generic or memorize irrelevant stats

If you have any questions, contact your Kaplan representative.