

F-1 Student Visa Quick Help

An F-1 student visa for the USA can be issued up to 120 days in advance of your course of study start date. You will only be able to enter the US with an F-1 visa 30 days before your start date. Changing any information during the process will cause delays. Not complying with the process, attempting to impose your own timeline, or coming to the US prematurely or under another visa with hopes of changing your status may result in the school withdrawing your acceptance to study at the school – either in person or completely.

The following documents are required for your F-1 visa interview:

- A valid passport
- The Nonimmigrant Visa Application, Form DS-160
- The application fee payment receipt
- A passport photo
- A Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Student Status (Form 1-20)

Additional documents may be requested to prove your eligibility for the F-1 student visa, including academic transcripts, diplomas, degrees, or certificates. Test scores such as the [TOEFL](#), [SAT](#), [GRE](#), or [GMAT](#) may also be requested, as well as proof of your intent to depart the U.S. after your program is complete and proof of your financial stability.

Top 10 Ways to Fail your F1 Visa Interview

All international students know the stressful feeling of applying for and interviewing for an F1 student visa. Many students prepare for months, only to be denied their visa. The truth of the matter is that on paper, you might meet every qualification, but if you don't have the right answers for your interviewer and be able to say them with substance and sincerity, you will not succeed. Here is a list of 10 things *not* to do during your interview:

1. Don't show up

You are required to schedule and attend your interview before you can be granted an F1 visa.

2. Don't bring all of the documents and receipts that are required

You must bring the following documents with you to your interview:

- a valid passport
- a Nonimmigrant Visa Application, Form DS-160
- an application fee payment receipt
- a passport photo
- a Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Student Status (Form 1-20)

3. Be vague about your study plans and goals

Your interviewer will ask questions regarding your study plans. Does your major have to do with your previous studies or work from your home country? Make sure you can explain your goals to the consular officer.

4. Choose a university at random

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To be granted an F1 visa, your choice of university must be carefully calculated. You must consider the caliber of the program you will enter as well as your living arrangements and be able to prove your preparedness.

5. Underplay your academic capability

Can you be successful in a US university? Additional documents may be requested to prove your eligibility for the F-1 student visa, including academic transcripts, diplomas, degrees, or certificates. Test scores such as the [TOEFL](#), [SAT](#), [GRE](#), or [GMAT](#) may also be requested.

6. Don't have a solid plan to finance your studies.

The most important factor determining your eligibility for the F1 visa is your ability to finance your entire program of study, including tuition and fees, room and board, transportation, travel, health insurance, and all other relevant expenses.

7. Have no plans to return to your home country after graduation

The F1 visa is granted to students who have strong ties to their home country that will lead to their return to their home country after their studies are complete. This could include family, property, or even a job offer.

8. Lie during the interview

If, for any reason, your interviewer believes that you are being dishonest, you can be denied your F1 student visa.

9. Do not consider cultural differences

You must demonstrate cultural sensitivity and the ability to adapt and live in a different culture than your own. You must be open to new experiences.

10. Be nervous

If you are well-prepared for your interview, there is no need to be nervous during your interview. Make sure you have all the required materials so that you can answer all of your interview questions with confidence.

Now that you know what *not* to do, it is time to start preparing for what you *should* do! Be sure to check out all our [F1 Student Visa articles](#) for more guidance regarding your F1 student visa.

*** This information was provided by a third party that is not affiliated with RES but is intended to provide general information about the process of requesting F1 visas.*