



Student Visa and U.S. Higher Education

A U.S. Consulate General, Hyderabad Face book Chat, held on

May 2, 2014 from 03:00pm – 04:00pm

Facebook Chat Transcript

US Vice Consul: Facebook Friday starts at 3 p.m. Please post your questions directly to the wall.

US Vice Consul: Getting ready for the weekend. Any other pressing questions out there regarding student visas? I'm a visa officer and will take questions until 4 p.m. today.

Student: IMPORTANT @ us consulate Hyderabad, my visa was approved for spring 2014 intake i went to USA and came back within a week without registering for the courses. My university has advised me that the next intake is in MAY (within 5 months) they asked me to defer my admission to the next intake. They have issued me a new I20 also they have said me that have terminated my old sevis number as per immigration laws and issued me a new sevis number, the fees for the new sevis number has also been transferred from the old sevis number.

Please be advice that I have contacted the sevis team they have advise me that I can start my Masters with my new sevis number they also said me that previously they were the students who entered the us with a new sevis number and they have also completed masters with new sevis number

Even my university stated the same above

Could you please advise can I go to us and start my masters in the same university but i have a different sevis number compared to the visa page

US Vice Consul: If you have a new/changed SEVIS number and a new I-20 form, you will need to apply for a new visa.

Student: AM I ELGIBLE for the interview waver program .How did the sevis team told me that i could start my semesters with new sevis number

US Vice Consul: You will need to apply in person.

Student: recently even one of my friends went to USA with new sevis number

US Vice Consul: I can't speak to the specific circumstances of your friend, but the law requires you to apply for a new visa if you have a new SEVIS ID. The final decision on your entry to the U.S. will be made by a Customs and Border Patrol official at the port of entry (this is true for any class of visa).

Student: Hi sir/madam, Does the backlogs in the Bachelor's degree i.e. if a student has 1.5 or more subjects, affect getting the Visa? If he/she proves that they r credible student with the backlogs also what are the chances of getting the VISA??

Student: likes this.

US Vice Consul: We don't have any formulas or specific numbers when determining whether an applicant qualifies for a student visa. We look to make sure the applicant has an I-20 from an approved college or university and that the applicant intends to study and has the ability to pay. It's important that applicants are honest about their past academic performance.

Student: Hi officer, I whole heartedly appreciate this initiative of yours to make the visa process more

transparent and hassle free I have quite a few questions which might also be of general interest to many other applicants. So here I go,

1. I'll be traveling to Hyderabad from my home town, a couple of weeks before my visa. Is it ok to carry the bank statement dated a couple of weeks before the visa, or should I take one on the day before or something like that, I believe we have to carry even the expired passport when attending the vi but do we have to handover to only the current passport or both when the officer asks at the counter. I started filling my ds-160 but for some unknown reason I am unable to retrieve it after I filled the personal information pages. I haven't completed filling it and haven't submitted it. Is it ok if I begin a fresh one, the address line of ds-160 doesn't allow a '/' to be typed. So how do I represent it if my address has a /. For example, if 45-4/3 is the house number do I type it as 45-4-3 or 45-4slash3?

Thank you.

US Vice Consul: Thanks for your questions. I'll attempt to answer as best I can. 1: We don't have any specific requirements for dates on a bank document; in fact, we often don't examine every document. The most important thing is being able to explain your situation clearly. If you think you need some kind of extra evidence, then bring it, but don't be disappointed if we don't ask for it. 2: Just hand over the current passport. 3: Sounds like you need to fill out a fresh DS-160 if you are unable to retrieve your previous one; 4. Try writing your address with a dash. If you have additional problems with filling out your application, please write to support- india@ustraveldocs.com

Student: Hello officer , I am 2013 graduate and I would like to apply for my masters for fall2014 I have been doing my preparation courses for my masters from past one year along with some extra-curricular activities ,is it really important to have only work experience if i have year break after my graduation.

US Vice Consul: Work experience might make sense, depending on your intended course of study. I think it's more important for you to consider which college or university is best for you. Some programs value practical experience while others might place more weight on academics. Once you are admitted to a program, then you should apply for a visa. We know that students come from all backgrounds. It's important that you are able to explain your situation -- your choices -- to myself or a colleague.

Student: What's the percentage of f1 visa granted during the spring?

US Vice Consul: We do our best to ensure that all qualified applicants are approved! In general, I can say that a majority of F1 applicants are successful.

Student: I've heard that some applicants are rejected more than twice because they had no work experience or any kind of exposure to that kind of environment, after the graduation. I also come under the same class. So, is my visa also going to get rejected based on these aspects? Please answer.

US Vice Consul: I can't pre-adjudicate your case here, sorry! Like I've told others in this forum, students come from all sorts of backgrounds and with a wide range of experiences. Just be ready to explain your situation to myself or a colleague, including how studying in the U.S. fits in with your goals. Good luck.

Student: Well, Thanks a ton, Sir. But sir, I guess I'll need your further guidance. So, do you mind sharing your Email Id or any other way to contact you? Phone number will be quite helpful.

US Vice Consul: Sorry, I don't share my personal contact info. If you have questions, feel free to post them here.

Student: Oh it is okay, Sir. I'll be posting only HERE if I wish to make any further queries. Thanks a lot and you're doing a great job, Sir. Bon weekend!

Student: we Indians are very generous and humble by heart if you guys or your country needs money u can just come to our doors we will pay you with added bonus with meals .just stop robbing us in the name of XYZ rules and visas

US Vice Consul: Thank you for sharing this Janardhan.

Student: I have received I 20 from one University and another I 20 is about to dispatch from the University where I wish to pursue my Masters. So can I book a VISA slot with the I 20 which I currently have in my hand is it possible or not let me know. Thanks in advance.

US Vice Consul: We recommend waiting to book a visa appointment until you are in possession of the I-20 from the university where you intend to study.

Student: seriously disappointed by visa officer as he rejects tourist visa for just 7 days with my family with a stupid explanation as our kid is too small to travel common get some new explanations I don't have a problem with my expenses why does he has a problem towards my kids age ...

Student: @us consulate Hyderabad, my visa was approved for spring 2014 intake I went to USA and came back within a week without registering for the courses. My university has advised me that the next intake is in MAY (with-in 5 months) they asked me to defer my admission to the next intake. They have issued me a new I20 also they have terminated my old sevis number and issued me a new sevis number the fees for the new sevis number has also been transferred. Could you please advise can I go to us and start my masters in the same university but I have a different sevis number compared to the visa page?

US Vice Consul: If your SEVIS number has changed, you must apply for a new visa before going to the U.S.

Student: thanks team but my university is advising me that I do not need a new visa as I am coming back in 5 months also I have searched in the travel documents regarding this but I have only found that if I do not return back within 5 months my visa will not be valid. Also can I use the interview waiver program for my case?

US Vice Consul: Thanks for all the questions! Another visa officer will be back next Friday afternoon for another round.