



Student Visas and U.S. Higher Education A U.S. Embassy/USIEF Webchat, held April 5, 2011, 4 to 5 PM (IST)

TRANSCRIPT:

Moderator: Please submit your questions here.

Consular Officer 2: Hello and welcome to the U.S. Embassy and USIEF webchat for potential students to the United States. Get your questions ready and we will get started. Welcome!

Moderator: Welcome all! The webchat commences now.

Girinath: I thank for this wonderful opportunity

Maria: I wish to apply for MFA in University of Virginia. I would like to know the criteria and qualifications required for the same. Is hostel accomodation available for International applicants?

Educational Advisor 2: Hello Maria, I'm happy to answer your questions

Educational Advisor 2: This depends on the policies and the availability of the Univ of Virginia. You would be advised to check directly with the University of Virginia's division of housing for this issue.

Pawan Gupta: I want to know about MBA programmes in USA

Educational Advisor 2: Hi Pawan

Guneet Singh: I want to pursue my doctoral studies in USA. I had applied to various universities for the Fall-2011 session as well, but so far it has not worked well for me. So, before applying for the next intake, I would like to get some research experience, probably as a unpaid volunteer, in a good lab at US . If I do get such opportunity, do I stand a chance of getting a visa ??

Educational Advisor 2: Pawan, applying for an MBA in the US is competitive but a fair process

arun: I would like to apply for the non immigrant visa (J1). In my DS-2019 which i obtained says that i dont have to pay the SEVIS fee. But since there is no SEVIS number i am unable to complete the DS-2019 form. Please help me with this query how i can complete the DS-160 form online? Thank you.

Consular Officer: Please contact your University Student Co-ordinator

Poojee Sudhapalli: I would also like to know how long it takes for the embassy to process a visa application and issue a student visa?

Consular Officer 2: Poojee, 97% of applications are processed in one day. But we always suggest to apply early.

Poojee Sudhapalli: Good evening Sir, I wish to apply for an F1 visa. How do I get an appointment with the Visa office for the same?

Consular Officer: Please go to US Embassy website on the following link for detail information:
<http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov/applyingmain.html>

Archana Singh: Hello, I have submitted my DS 160 form for us visa today only

Archana Singh: but there I made a mistake

Consular Officer 2: Archana, what is the mistake?

Archana Singh: I have put my SEVIS no in the place of the principal applicant

Consular Officer 2: Archana, you can update the information when you come in for your appointment

easha: and is it possible dat next year visas will b available for students to study in usa?

Consular Officer 2: Eesha, yes, we are very interested in many many students to continue to come from India to the United States.

KARTIK: I AM AN INDIAN CITIZEN RESIDING IN THE UK . CURRENTLY I AM PLANNING TO STUDY IN THE US , SO BEING AN INDIAN CITIZEN CAN I APPLY FOR A US VISA FROM THE UK

Consular Officer: Karthik, you may apply from UK. However, we suggest you to contact US Embassy, in UK for detail information

Educational Advisor 2: You'll need to take the GMAT, shorlist various business schools, and assemble your essays and send them the transcripts and official GMAT score reports, PawanAbhishek: How I prepare for TOEFL

Educational Advisor 2: Hi Abhishek, to prepare for the TOEFL, you should use the materials available at www.toefl.org as well as contact the closest USIEF branch to you. We have a lot of resources to help you prepare for the TOEFL exam. THE New Delhi office of the USIEF is at 12, Hailey Road, New Delhi 110 001

Consular Officer 2: Some interesting statistics:

Consular Officer 2: We process approximately 675 thousand Non-Immigrant visas per year in India

RajN: Already admitted to a few Universities! Waiting for calls from Higher ranked or Better Research oriented Univs. Should one apply right away ? And is there a cap on F1 Visa?

Educational Advisor 2: Hi RajN, Once you are sure of where you want to go for your studies, you should follow up with the university concerning the I-20 document. For this you will need to provide documented financial resources, after which the university will send you the I-20. Once you get the I-20, you can apply for the F-1 visa through the services of VFS.

sunir: I need a information regarding fee structure for student visa

Consular Officer: Sunir, Please go through the following link for detail information:
<http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov/applyingmain/consular-fees.html#nivfees>

Consular Officer 2: Sumedha, the most common reason for refusal is under section 214b of the Immigration Law

sanjay kumar: hi..where can I have the relevant information about the scholarships available in US universities for foreign students

Educational Advisor 2: Hi sanjay Kumar, We at USIEF are very happy to help with this information. Do visit us at 12, Hailey Road, New Delhi 110 001. We have a lot of library resources and the services of qualified Educational Advisors to personally assist you in shortlisting universities that provide financial aid to international students. Visit us, and for more contact information, check out www.usief.org.in.

easha: is usa giving visa to the b.tech students to complete their degree in usa?

Educational Advisor: easha: there is no discrimination of the b.tech students from any other student applying for student visa. looks like you got some negative vibes from others. Please check www.educationusa.state.gov for detailed information and attend visa counselling sessions organized by USIEF. Contact us at 42090978 for detailed information.

shanker: is international students are eligible for graduate certificate programs in us universities?

Educational Advisor 2: Dear Shankar, yes, international students are absolutely eligible to apply for graduate certificate programs at US universities.

Consular Officer 2: Sumedha, 214b states that an applicant is assumed to want to immigrate to the United States, unless he/she can prove to the officer otherwise, through his/her social, economic and familial ties

Educational Advisor 2: Shankar, once you are clearer and more specific about which specific graduate certificate you are interested in applying for, you can get more information about it from the university's specific website. Follow the instructions and go ahead and apply.

Rana Partap Singh: which website can I apply for F1 visa.

Consular Officer 2: The 2nd most popular reason for refusal is under 221g of the Immigration law

SAM: Will there be any rejection if there is a gap after graduation

Educational Advisor 2: to the best of our knowledge, your having a "gap year" after graduation does not go against you if you apply to a US university and have a solid set of reasons about why you took that gap year.

Neo: What are the documents to be carried to obtain F1 visa ?

Consular Officer 2: 221g states that if the application is not complete, the officer cannot adjudicate or make a decision on the case.

Sumedha: How much time does it take to know the status of Visa (grant/refusal) from the date of filing the application?

Consular Officer 2: 221g is not a hard refusal, but it's a pending status that can last up to one year if the applicant takes that long to submit the required documents.

ss: My Sister get from Anna University - MCA Degree, She want further study

Educational Advisor: SS: Good to know your sisters interest in higher studies. Is she interested in studying in teh U.S. If yes, she would require to plan ahead and get in touch with EducationUSA offices for details. I would suggest you to go to some websites to get a clear view of the complete process including the cost of studies in teh U.S.

devaki: sir i am doing P.G second year (M.pharm)how can i get jobs in America, or i have to pass any examinations or do any degree

Educational Advisor 2: Hi Devaki: If youa re in the MPHarm program, I'm assuming you are already in India. We are only answering questions concerning your interest in studying in the US, not for employment.

Sumedha: What are the most common reasons upon which a student visa may be refused?

Consular Officer 2: Adminitrative Processing is an example of a 221g refusal

joe: An Indian National Student who studied in Singapore (Ex-singapore PR) and on social visit pass in Singapore is eligible to apply for F1 Visa (to study in US university) from Singapore US Embassy?

Consular Officer: Joe, You may apply.

Aman Kulshrestha: sorry a correction, I appeared for interview on 25th Feb'2011.

Consular Officer: Aman, can you please explain your query again.

roopa: my term was wasted due to delay in processin of my case under administrative processing

Consular Officer: Roopa, Please note that there is no definite time period for administrative processing. When administrative processing is required, the timing will vary depending on circumstances of each case.

samten: am looking forward to do online course from Welden University, will you help for this?

Educational Advisor 2: Dear Samten, we at USIEF encourage you to apply to any university which will allow you to actually go to the US and study there. That is our focus here at USIEF. In case you want to study for an online course, you are welcome to do so on your own.

faisal mir 2: sir if i get an I-20 from one of the top university of usa , then i can apply for F-1 visa , what can be i chances for getting a student visa . after having all documents, including bank statements, good IELTS band, and I-20 from the top university in usa .

Consular Officer 2: Faisal, you need several things to apply for an F1 visa. First, an I-20. Second, your SEVIS fee receipt. Third, your HDFC bank receipt, and fourth, your appointment letter. Your passport must be valid for 6 months later than your application date, and your photographs must meet our specifications.

roopa: are there chances to even miss the admission for the deferred term also

Consular Officer: Roopa, you will have to talk to student coordinator of your university regarding admission.

Moderator: Yes Arun feel free to send.

neha gupta 2: in case i get f1 issued for one school and later i get admitted into a better school, what is the procedure to change the f1 for the second school. do I have to go for the whole procedure again??

Consular Officer 2: Neha, if you are in India and haven't yet travelled, you would have to go through the whole process again if you change schools.

roopa: are there chances to even miss the deferred term due to administrative processing

Consular Officer 2: Roopa, yes, it can happen that you would be late due to administrative processing. This happens in less than 1% of cases, but that is why we encourage students to apply as early as possible.

devaki: sir, i have to pursue any naasters in us to get a job or with my pg degree i can get,or any sponsers should be there

Educational Advisor 2: Hi Devak if you want to study in the USA, you need to apply to go there for either a post-graduate program to be able to study there.

Suresh Iyer: Suresh Iyer:Sorry sir-questions are 1.Should the bank statement reflect transaction of 6 months or is it enough if it has summary of bank balance in Mutual funds and savings accounts2.I have an affidavit dated Nov. 2010 that I will sponsor her expenses.Is this adeuate and 3.She is a resident of

Dubai and can she apply? These questions are pertaining my daughter applying for a 2 year Graduate program towards which she intends applying for Visa in May 2010. Thanks

Consular Officer: Suresh, Don't worry about the financial aspect, you should be more focus on the education goal, travel plans etc

Jayant Notani: hello, i would like to know that if there are any restrictions regarding how much stuff i can carry along when moving to us for studies

Educational Advisor: Jayant: First of all Congratulations on your admit to the U.S. University. I would advise you to attend our pre departure orientation program in the first week of July. We will keep you posted on the exact date. Every airline has a restricted check in baggage normally between 23 to 26 kg. The pdo will answer all your queries and help you in a smooth transition to the US.

Shreyas: Hello I have applied for an undergraduate course. I wanted to know what documents are required for applying for a visa?

Consular Officer 2: Shreyas, you need an I20, your passport, your SEVIS fee receipt, your HDFC bank receipt, your appointment letter, and a recent photograph

sidheshwar: Bank Balance equal to the i-20 amount is enough or we have to show more liquid funds?

Consular Officer: Sidheshwar: Don't worry about the financial aspect, you should be more focus on the education goal, travel plans etc

Srihari: what are the financial documents that are needed to be shown for an F1 visa ?

Consular Officer: Srihari, Don't worry about the financial aspect, you should be more focus on the education goal, travel plans etc. For more info- please visit our website

Mohit Koladia: I have received an offer for my PhD at NDSU for Fall 2011. I will soon get I 20 from them. do i need to provide financial documents for Visa when i have full fees waiver and a stipend of 15000 USD annually?

Consular Officer 2: Mohit, you have to be able to convince the officer that you are able to pay for at least one year of your academic studies.

ANJANA SHARMA: what are the job opportunities at US, after pursuing Masters in Electrical (majoring- Communications, wireless)

Educational Advisor 2: Hi Anjana Sharma: the job options in the US after finishing your studies depends on many factors that we cannot predict, including your expertise, your geographical location and what the market situation at that point in the future are. I don't know if anyone can predict that from here! I hope that is helpful. Thanks.

Aakriti Gupta: Hello! I have received my I-20 from the university. I have just given my 12th class board exams. When is the earliest i can apply for my visa?

Educational Advisor: Shreyas: Also attend visa counselling sessions to be held at USIEF office starting mid April.

Mohit Koladia: I have received an offer for my PhD at NDSU for Fall 2011. I will soon get I 20 from them. do i need to provide financial documents for Visa when i have full fees waiver and a stipend of 15000 USD annually?

Consular Officer 2: Aakriti, you can apply up to 120 days before the start of your academic program.

wellars NDAYAMBAJE: i want to know how i can find admission in USA and student loan

Educational Advisor 2: Dear Wellars Ndayambaje, if you want to study in the US can you tell us what exactly you want to study and at which level? Is it for a Master's, a PhD or something else?

Jayant Notani: Thank you sir, the reason i am asking this is because i have to carry my guitars and amp. How can i carry them safely along with me?

Educational Advisor: Jayant, you can take your guitar as cabin baggage. Rupali

Rahul: can i pay the Sevis fee and the Visa fee at the HDFC bank now and appear for the visa interview in June?

Consular Officer 2: Rahul, yes, you can pay ahead of time. Your HDFC fee receipt is good for one year.

Bharat Jain: i was admitted in NYU for Spring 2011 and got F-1 visa, i deferred to Fall 2011 due to some issues back home, the university issued me a new I-20 with the same SEVIS no, do i need to apply for visa again or will the one in Jan be valid in August?

Consular Officer: Bharat, Once your visa was issued, if you have not gone and now you are going and it is the same school, same course then you may travel with the new I 20. However, if you have gone once, then you will have to apply for fresh visa.

neha gupta: Can i fix appointment for interview for F1 before I officially get i20 from my school in USA?

Consular Officer 2: Neha, you cannot fix an appointment until you have your I20

Shreyas: *applying for a US visa

Consular Officer: Shreyas, Please go to our website for detail information on how to apply for a US Visa:<http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov/applyingmain.html>

Tushar: Does it help that I've already travelled to the US before ?

Consular Officer 2: Tushar, we assume you're asking does previous travel to the US help in getting a student visa. Travel patterns are what we look at. If you have abided by the visa category that you have, then you are establishing a stable travel history.

Ketan Garg: Also, are there any other work opportunities apart from on-campus positions.

Educational Advisor 2: Hi Ketan Garg: Yes, you are legally allowed to work on campus as well as off campus on your F-1 student visa. But the restriction is that for off campus work you need to get special permission so that you do not violate your status as an F-1 student

sudeshna Lahiri: I am assistant professor in Calcutta University. I am applying for Fulbright Visiting Lecturership. I found from previous records of recipient of fulbright that most of them are atleast associate professor and above 40 yrs. Do age and position for visiting lecturer matters?

Educational Advisor: Sudeshna: Please be in touch with our Indian Fulbright Program. You can contact them at ip@usief.org.in

arjun: sir, i have got an internship opportunity in us university for 10 weeks during the summer. what are the things that i will be interviewed on during the visa interview. The university is providing the complete financial support.

Consular Officer 2: Arjun, what visa category are you applying for?

wellars NDAYAMBAJE: good afternoon

kageit: good afternoon

Pulkitvision: Hi, I have been admitted to university for undergraduate program and have to reply by May 1st whether I want to attend or not. But I am waiting for all results to come before deciding. So how early should I reply to the university so that I get my visa on time before the classes start?

Educational Advisor 2: Hi Pulkitvision: Stay in touch with the US universities to which you have applied and email them about your decisions (whether it is admission or a rejection) and when these are to be expected. Once you get all the responses, you can decide. Ideally, you should hear from the universities by mid-April so you have some more time before you apply for your US visa.

pahuja: what all documents do I need to carry along at the time of the interview?

Educational Advisor: Jayant: Cabin baggage is what you can carry with you to the aircraft. It has certain specifications which you need to check with the airline you will be travelling with.

Shreyas: When does the process for visa application start?

Consular Officer 2: Shreyas, the process starts as soon as you apply to the University and get the I20. See prior answers for further documentation needed.

Shreyas: Sir, i plan to do a part time job. So will a student visa be good enough or i need to apply in some other category?

Educational Advisor: Shreyas: you can take on campus jobs only with the student visa.

pahuja: 1.What minimum amount of saving should I show in my bank account if the university costs \$40542 (8 semesters) ?

Consular Officer: Pahuja, More concern on how you convince the officer as to how you will be able to cover the cost. We cannot advise on how much saving you should have and you should be more focused on your education goal and travel plan

Mohit Koladia: I have received an offer for my PhD at NDSU for Fall 2011. I will soon get I 20 from them. do i need to provide financial documents for Visa when i have full fees waiver and a stipend of 15000 USD annually?

Educational Advisor 2: Dear Mohit Koladia: You need to ensure that the stipend plus the fee waiver at NDSU will cover your costs completely and then it is NDSU's responsibility to send you the I-20 document. You should correspond with NDSU by email to double-check that you don't need to provide financial documents before they themselves send you the I-20.

Durga Nand Tripathi: May i know the time required for administrative processing

Consular Officer: Durga, Please note that there is no definite time period for administrative processing. When administrative processing is required, the timing will vary depending on circumstances of each case.

SAKSHI: hi...is GRE excepted in place of GMAT??

Educational Advisor 2: Hi Sakshi: the GRE may be accepted by a very few schools in lieu of the GMAT but you need to double-check with the business schools directly.

Bhavita: What is the duration for the visa process/

Consular Officer 2: Bhavita, The visa process, from when you already have the I-20 can take about a month.

esha: for how many years is an f1 visa valid?

Consular Officer 2: Esha, the F1 is usually valid for 5 years.

Ankush: What should be the date to apply for Visa for this fall season?

Consular Officer: Ankush, Please note that you cannot apply before 4 months from the date on your I 20.

kageit: what has to be shown exactly

Educational Advisor 2: kageit: you need to follow up with the university and check how much of a loan you need to apply for from the bank before you can go ahead with this matter. Check with the school to find out exactly how much this amount would be

Tushar: Assuming that I'm issued an I-20 by the university I intend to enroll into, what do I do next ?

Vaibhav Shukla: Hi What are necessary docs are required for the Visa?

Consular Officer 2: Vaibhav, you need your I20, your passport, your photograph, your visa appointment letter, your SEVIS receipt, and your HDFC receipt.

wellars NDAYAMBAJE: we thank you also for taking your time explaining about usa education

Educational Advisor 2: Hi wellars, you're very welcome

SM: My son has got admission to Purdue and has received I-20 from the University. His class 12th results are expected by end of May. Can he apply and appear for interview before his class 12th results are announced.

Consular Officer: SM, He may wish to apply.

Jayant Notani: Hello Maam this is Archit. is there some way I could connect with the students that have gone to WPI during the previous year?

Educational Advisor: Archit: Please attend the Pre departure orientation program where you can meet with students who are going to various universities in the U.S. As of now I recall, we have a student who is going to WPI with funding but I need to check if she has made a final decision. Be in touch with us closer to the PDO and do not forget attending the visa counselling sessions.

esha: For how many years is an F1 visa valid?

Educational Advisor 2: Dear Esha - the F-1 visa is generally valid for the period of time you need to complete your studies for your specific degree

Manish Agrawal: My son has got admission to USC for computer engineering

Educational Advisor 2: Dear Manish Agrawal, can you be more specific about your question -- are you asking about procedure for the visa or something else?

Bhavita: What are the main documents we need during the student visa process for graduate education?

Consular Officer 2: Tushar, you need to apply for a visa! Go online and fill out the DS160. Print out the barcode page, pay the fee at an HDFC bank, pay the SEVIS fee, make an appointment, and come for the interview.

SAKSHI: IF I AM APPLYING FOR MS IN HRM SHOULD I GO FOR GRE ??

Educational Advisor 2: Hi Sakshi: If the MS in HRM is from a business school, it will be likely that they may require the GMAT exam. But in case they require the GRE, you will need to take that standardized test. You can get this information from the website of the school which is offering the MS program in HRM. They will provide you with the specific information

Pulin Agrawal: Could you list all possible reasons for rejection of VISA?

Consular Officer: Pulin, Applicants refused a visa under Section 214(b) who believe they have credible supporting evidence that either may have been overlooked or was not presented earlier, or whose circumstances may have changed to make their case for travel to the U.S. stronger, are free to reapply. Another is Sec 221g. After your visa interview, if you were found temporarily ineligible for a visa you received a pink, green, or yellow Section 221(g) handout.

alawiya: am from Yemen and I want to pursue my MAB in the united states am here in India for GMAT coaching propose going to give the exam on June. I would like to know Due to the situation in Yemen are there any VISA restrictions, or may I still get a VISA to study in the US?

Consular Officer: Alawiya, You may apply.

Jayant Notani: thank you maam, when are the visa counselling sessions and the pre departure orientation program ?

Educational Advisor: jayant: the visa counselling sessions are going to start from mid April and they will be in the first week of July. stay connected!

Tushar: Can USIED provide me any kind of counselling on which university should I choose (I've been accepted at 7 and now I need to decide) and guide me through the process ?

Educational Advisor 2: Tushar -- congratulations on this good news! It really depends on which universities that have given you the offers. Can you visit us at USIEF , 12 Hailey Road, New Delhi 110 001 (or www.usief.org.in). Then we can help you directly

Sumit Dhoble: what is the maximum gap allowed between the date of the visa interview and the expected date of travel to the United States?

Consular Officer: Sumit, you apply before 4 months from the date on your I 20 and cannot travel before 30 days on your I 20

Dishant Sharma: I want to join for PhD Biosciences, how much money I have to show during visa interview?

Consular Officer 2: Dishant, you have to convince the officer you can pay for the first year of your academic studies.

Pulkitvision: does getting into a very good university help our chances of getting visa?

Consular Officer: Pulkitvision, It depends more on your educational goal and what you inform the officer

dp 2: what steps are to be taken if our visa is denied?

Consular Officer 2: DP2, if your visa is refused, you will be given an explanation and instructions on next steps. The officer will return your passport.

PuNeet Sharma: name some good colleges for M.S in mechanicals

Educational Advisor 2: Hi Puneet Sharma -- there are nearly 4300 universities and colleges in the US, many of which are excellent for studying for engineering, and especially mechanical engineering. Kindly visit us in person at 12, Hailey Road, New Delhi 110 001. We can help you shortlist universities directly.

wellars NDAYAMBAJE: hello, can i know about student loan in USA?

Consular Officer: Wellars, Please visit USIEF for your query.

ANJANA SHARMA: answer my questions too.. how is the post MS job scene in Engineering field

Educational Advisor 2: Dear Anjana Sharma: I think I have already answered this question before, kindly have a look at the previous posts.

Rohit: What sort of questions are usually asked in the interview ?

Consular Officer 2: Rohit, we can't say exactly what questions you will be asked, but in general you have to be able to intelligently describe your choice of school, your choice of program, and your future plans.

Vibhore Kotwani: I am a Petroleum Engineer currently working in Saipem Triune Engineering as a process engineer. I graduated in May 2009 from UPES, Dehradun and did my engineering in Applied Petroleum Engineering with specialization in upstream. Now, I am looking to pursue MS in Petroleum Engineering from US and would like to know when shall I start with applications and which all exams shall I give to get admission in University of Texas or Houston specially

Educational Advisor 2: Dear Vibhore Kotwani: Good to hear you are considering the USA for various petroleum engineering courses. There are about 20 or so universities in the USA which do provide more advanced education for your purposes.

Abhishek Chakraborty: Can you throw some light about OPT?

Consular Officer: Abhishek, Students are eligible for up to twelve months of optional practical training following completion of all course requirements for graduation (not including thesis or equivalent), or after completion of all requirements, per 9 FAM 41.61 note 12.4-2. OPT is separate from a student's academic work, and time for OPT will not normally be reflected during the student's academic program or in the completed study date. Therefore, students applying for a visa to do OPT may present an I-20 with an original end of study date that may have passed. These I-20s must be annotated by the designated school official to reflect approval of an optional practical training program that extends beyond the end of the regular period of study. This annotation can be found on page 3 of the student's I-20. In addition, the student must have proof of DHS receipt of application or approval for a practical training program, either in the form of an approved Employment Authorization Card or an I-797 indicating that the student has applied for DHS approval for an OPT program. For more information visit the following website: <http://travel.state.gov/>

Farah Edrees: information on tourist visa to US

Educational Advisor 2: Hi Vibhore: one way you can start the process is to go to www.petersons.com and do your own search of universities that have these programs. It is never too early to begin the application process; it typically takes 9 to 15 months to do the entire thing, but you are in good time for entry into the university in Fall 2012 (September 2012).

Educational Advisor 2: PROCESS FOR APPLYING TO U.S. GRADUATE SCHOOLS U.S. Graduate Schools are all independent, and each sets its own requirements for admission. Within each school individual programs may often have different requirements. These guidelines are written to assist you in your search for graduate education. It is advisable to start this process approximately one to one-and-a-half year(s) before you hope to begin studies. In the U.S. the American academic year begins late August or early September, and students should generally request admission for this (autumn or fall) term. Use reference guides, such as Peterson's Guide and the Directory of Graduate Programs, to locate specific institutions that offer the program at the degree level (Master's or Doctorate) you are seeking. Write directly to the Graduate Admissions Offices of the institutions to obtain information and applications. Indicate the major academic area of interest to you. Carefully print your name and address on all such inquiries. Stress field of specialization, professional background, reasons for choosing particular faculty and ask for information on financial aid possibilities. You do not need the name of the department chairman or a professor to obtain an application. Advise each office that you have contacted the other. Thoroughly read all materials received to determine whether the program you seek is offered; whether you appear to meet the minimum academic requirement; if you require financial assistance, whether it is available for your proposed programs; and whether you can meet the application deadlines. Apply to more than one institution. U.S. institutions receive many applications and often cannot accommodate all qualified applicants. You may decide which institution to attend after you have received your admission offers. Complete the admission application carefully and legibly. Always give your name in exactly the same way on the application and in all correspondence. If some of your records are under a different name, be sure you indicate that on the application. Complete all items on the application and submit all items requested. If an application fee is required, submit the appropriate amount in U.S. currency with your application. Most institutions will not process your application without the fee. Request your official academic records both in the native language and in English translation. Official documents must bear the seal of the school and authorized signature. Photocopies are not usually acceptable unless they are officially attested as exact copies of the original. Records should be submitted for all post-secondary schools attended and should provide a list of courses taken, yearly examination results, and conferral of degrees. If your native language is not English, register as early as possible for an English proficiency exam such as TOEFL or IELTS and request that testing service forward your scores to the institutions to which you are applying. Register for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT), or other tests if required by the program/institution to which you are applying. Request letters of recommendation as required by the program/institution. Professors with whom you have studied should generally write these letters. Submit verification of scholarship or other financial support. Note the deadlines for application given in the institutional information you receive. Different institutions/programs have different deadlines. Allow time for mail delays, application consideration, and for obtaining passport and visa when you are admitted. Apply early. Stated application deadlines are generally the final date for receipt of applications and all supporting

credentials. Additional time is required to process applications from international students. Send all requests, applications, and credentials airmail. Allow 6-8 weeks after your application is submitted to an institution to receive their admission decision. Many schools and departments, however, send admission

Durga Nand Tripathi: Dear officer my query is that i have Applied for J-1 Visa and given Interview on 1 March. After that i got a pink slip now it is more than one month but till now i dont know the my VISA status. Can you help me in this regard.

Consular Officer: Durga, Please note that there is no definite time period for administrative processing. When administrative processing is required, the timing will vary depending on circumstances of each case. Be assured that U.S Embassy will contact you if the administrative processing is complete or if additional information is required.

Tushar: Sure, I'll visit USIEF in Delhi.

arjun: sir, i have got an internship opportunity in us university for 10 weeks during the summer. what are the things that i will be interviewed on during the visa interview. The university is providing the complete financial support. I will be applying for f-1 visa category

Nita Kumar: My son is completing his undergrad engineering at Columbia and has a job offer from Citi. He is in the process of getting his OPT and has a new valid I-20 but his F1 is expiring this June. Can he come here and apply for a new F1?

Consular Officer 2: Nita, yes, if his SEVIS record is valid, ie, reflects the OPT status, then he can get a new stamping.

Bhavya Karne: I have been admitted in WIU and receiving an i 20 in a couple of days. When can i apply for a visa at the earliest?

Consular Officer: Bhavya, you may apply note before 4 months from the date on your I 20

Puneet Oberoi 2: From what I have read from the previous posts is it necessary to have the bank receipt only of HDFC bank?

Consular Officer 2: Puneet, yes, currently HDFC is the only bank with which we have the technical relationship to process the fees. Good question.

esha: what are the documents to be produced when appearing for the visa interview?

Consular Officer: Esha, Please note that it is an interview based visa, decision is made on teh basis of the interview. However, you may carry any supporting document you think can help your case.

sidheshwar: the amount in the loan sanction letter considered towards the first year expenses??

Consular Officer 2: Sidheshwar, yes, that would be considered

Ankush: What are the FAQ's ?

Educational Advisor 2: Ankush, FAQs is the acronym for "Frequently Answered Question".

Manish Agrawal: My son has got admission to USC for computer engineering, please explain exact procedure to be completed for Visa.

Consular Officer: Manish, Please go through the following link for information on how to apply:<http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov/applyingmain.html>

RAVI: i was working and have recently quit. I'll be appearing for my interview in the 1st week of june for Fall 2011. Since i have nothing to show for those 3 months(April-June)..would that be a cause for concern?

Consular Officer 2: Ravi, are you applying for an F1 visa?

wellars NDAYAMBAJE: i want to know how i can get a student loan at usa

Educational Advisor 2: Dear wellars, are you an American citizen or an Indian citizen? The answer to your question depends

pahuja: 2.In what all forms can I show the income required to cover the cost of education in the U.S? Can I show the money invested on the properties/the assets?

Consular Officer: Pahuja, We cannot advise on teh financial aspect, you should be able to convince teh officer, you may carry any supporting document you think may assist you.

Kartik: apart from original bank statements what else financial documents do i need to carry on my interview date

Consular Officer: Kartik, may carry any supporting document

Mohit Koladia: Hello mam i have got admit to NDSU fall 2011 for PhD

Consular Officer: Mohit, Thats grt but what is your query

sayeedul hasan: i had my visa interview on 24 march,they gave my passport back,but also gave me a 221g paper saying that my visa needed additional processing,whom should i contact for they dont have my passport to know how long will it take because i have to be in usa by 25 for my observership?my interview was at kolkata consulate

Consular Officer 2: Sayeedul, we cannot say how long adminstrative processing takes, and we cannot speed up the process. It can take up to a month or longer.

Arun Golas: What are the documents to be carried to obtain F1 visa?

Consular Officer: Arun, First, apply and be accepted to an American educational institute. This takes time and requires a significant amount of foresight and planning.After acceptance, pay your SEVIS fee and

wait to receive your I-20 or DS-2019 from the academic organization. Full-time or vocational students (F and M visas) must get an I-20. Exchange visitors (J visa) must get a DS-2019. Get a photograph with the proper specifications. Pay the visa fee at any HDFC bank. Submit your initial application via the DS-160 online form, and schedule a visa interview. Do these as early as you can! Remember: you may not apply for your visa more than 120 days before the program start date listed on your I-20 or DS-2019. Also, you may not enter the United States on a student visa more than 30 days before the program start date on your I-20 or DS-2019. Come in for your interview with all the required documentation. Be sure to present yourself honestly and openly.

Kavya: I have gotten admission in aerospace engineering (undergrad) for Fall 2011 and I plan on applying for a student visa. However, my passport expires in May 2012. Is it possible for me to apply for a visa now, or should I wait until after I get my passport renewed?

Consular Officer 2: Kavya, your passport must be valid 6 months beyond the issuance of your visa, AND be in good condition to be eligible for a visa stamping.

wellars NDAYAMBAJE: excuse me may i know how i can get usa student loan?

Educational Advisor 2: dear wellars, if you want a student loan to study in the USA - you need to consult a bank or a financial institution. I hope that helps.

sidheshwar: NYU poly has given me a conditional scholarship, if i dont get the required GPA, i wont receive scholarship in SEM2..so wil they consider the scholarship amount and deduct it from the I20 amount to calculate my expenses??

Educational Advisor: sidheshwar: The best thing is to be in touch with the University. Are there other offers you got from the U.S. Universities? Please be in touch with USIEF office for attending the visa sessions and pre departure orientations. visit us at www.usief.org.in

SANJAY: Is it possible to apply for the Visa before class XII results are available.

Consular Officer: Sanjay, YOu may apply if you get teh I 20 from your university

Moderator: While our officers are responding to your questions, we have time for another one or two. Thanks for bearing with the overflow...

vinny usmail: How early should a student should apply for VISA ? What is the earliest possible date ?

Consular Officer 2: Vinny, you can apply for a student visa no earlier than 120 days before the start of your program, as listed on your I-20

Tushar: What sort of questions are asked in the interview ?

Saheb: What sort of questions are asked in the interview ?

Puneet Oberoi 2: From what I have read from the previous posts is it necessary to have the bank receipt only of HDFC bank?

Consular Officer: Puneet, Yes

Archit Saraf: Hello Maam this is Archit. is there some way I could connect with the students that have gone to WPI during the previous year?

Educational Advisor 2: Dear Archit Saraf: you can contact WPI for their other Indian students and see if they will share this information with you. All the best!

wellars NDAYAMBAJE: i want to study in Master of Business and administration

Educational Advisor 2: If you want to study for an MBA you will probably have to apply for a bank loan because there are very very few scholarships to study for an MBA in the USA.

Pulin Agrawal: the 1st reason you told about rejection, could you please explain it?

Consular Officer: Pulin, Please visit our website for detail information

Puneet Oberoi 2: what is the time between which I can visit USIEF for university selection from the list of universities in which I have been accepted as an undergrad student. Is there any fee that is charged

Educational Advisor: Puneet: you can visit USIEF office between 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. M-F. Please visit our website at www.usief.org.in for information on our services.

Bhavita: What documents are needed to show that one can pay for the first yr of academic studies? Is a bank statement sufficient or do entire account statements need to be shown?

Consular Officer: Bhavita, Any document that supports your case

SANJAY: My Parents are going to take care of all my expenses while I am in USA. They are in Business. How would I be able to talk about my parents capacity to support me in USA at the time of interview

Consular Officer: Sanjay, that you have to decide

Deep: does being undecided about the major for undergraduate program negatively affect our chances of getting visa?

Educational Advisor 2: Deep, if you are going to study for an undergrad program in the US, it is commonly known that you have about 1.5 years before you declare your major. So it should not go against you if you yourself are not completely clear.

Jayant Notani: In what all forms can I show the income required to cover the cost of education in the U.S? Can I show the money invested on properties/assets?

Consular Officer: Jayant, you may carry any document

Moderator: Thanks for participating!

Jayant Notani: ok..thank you maam.... In what all forms can I show the income required to cover the cost of education in the U.S? Can I show the money invested on the properties/assets?

Educational Advisor 2: Goodbye everyone, thanks for your questions. For all your queries concerning US higher education, please visit us at 12, Hailey Road, New Delhi 110001. United States-India Educational Foundation is also available online: www.usief.org.in. Thank you, Educational Advisors 1 and 2.

vinny usmail: What are the basic grounds on which an F 1 VISA may be refused?

Consular Officer: Thank you all very much for your participation in today's webchat on U.S. student visas. We hope the information provided was helpful and addressed some of your concerns. The consular sections at all posts have an officer and local staff person available to come to your school or university and present on the U.S. visa process. Please see our websites for contact information. For more information on the topic of visas, please see the following websites: •Bureau of Consular Affairs http://travel.state.gov/visa_services.html •U.S. Embassy New Delhi <http://newdelhi.usembassy.gov> •The U.S.-India Education Foundation www.fulbright-india.org •VFS <http://www.vfs-usa.co.in> •DHS/ICE website <http://www.ice.gov/graphics/sevis> Good afternoon and good luck in your process!