

# WEBCCHAT

October Transcript

U.S. Embassy Nepal: We have four consular officers in the room today to answer any question you have regarding visas to the U.S.

U.S. Embassy Nepal: We are now accepting questions!!

Divas: Can we get Student VISA to study in community college?

Consular Officer 2: Absolutely. The law does NOT distinguish among schools that issue I-20s. Which school you choose is not nearly as important as WHY you choose it.

Sohail Mandal: what happens when parents are in Nepal and the son under 21 is studying in USA and parents win DV lottery including the son. Will the son come back from USA to appear for interview?

Consular Officer 3: Yes, the son must return to Nepal to appear with his parents at their Diversity Visa (DV) interview at the Embassy. If you are included on a DV application, and if you want to qualify for U.S. legal permanent resident (LPR) under the DV program, you must come to the interview with them. Further, you must travel with or after them. So if you want to become an LPR in the United States this way, the son must wait for the parents to be approved and travel to the US before the son can return to the college campus.

Ujjwal: I want to study in USA, i want to know detail that how to apply for it, sir.

Consular Officer 2: First you must apply and be accepted by an American college or university. Once accepted, you will be issued an I-20 form by that university. Then you will need to go to Nabil Bank (Maharajgunj branch) and pay the appropriate fees to schedule your student visa interview at our Embassy. During your interview you will need to demonstrate that you are an intending student, you can afford your education, and that you intend to leave the U.S. after the completion of your studies. For more detailed information, please download the "How To Apply For A Student Visa.pdf" and the "Student Visa FAQs.pdf" documents available below during this web-chat. You can also always visit our student visa information section on our webpage @ [http://nepal.usembassy.gov/student\\_visas.html](http://nepal.usembassy.gov/student_visas.html)

Munu: Does the standardized tests scores help in the approval or denial of the visa?

Consular Officer 1: To be a student in the US, you must be accepted by an accredited school in the US. Most, but not all schools require standardized tests to be accepted, so good test scores help you get accepted to a good school in the US, which helps your chances at the visa interview. Good English skills are required, since your classes in the US will be in English, so student visa interviews are in English.

TD: what a community college is different from the university?

Consular Officer 2: Typically a university may be bigger and offers different types of degrees, so it is usually more expensive. A community college is usually smaller and less expensive. However, please keep in mind that under US law it does not matter whether you chose a university or a community college as long as you have good reasons for choosing that school!

TD: will students visa give me chance for work while study? I mean can i take job too?

Consular Officer 2: The point of a student visa is to study not to work! Some colleges offer assistantships, work study programs, and other such opportunities that allow students to work. But these are designed so that they do not interfere with your studies or ability to have a full course load. Working outside of these approved programs is illegal and can lead to an arrest as well as deportation! After your first year of school, up to 20 hours of approved employment is allowed, but again, this should not be the main reason for studying in the US.

Ram Sharma: I am appearing a DV interview shortly? Does it make a difference if some of supporting documents have my name as "Dr. Abc Mno Xyz." and some as Mr. Abc Mno Xyz"?

Consular Officer 4: That should not make a difference. The interviewing officer may ask about why you have different titles, but as long as you can explain the circumstances, it should not matter.

kshav: how to apply visitor visa

Consular Officer 3: To apply for a visitor/tourist visa to the United States, 1) complete and print the online "EAVF" visa application form (<http://evisaforms.state.gov>). 2) Submit your application form, passport, and nagarikta, schedule your visa interview, and pay \$131 (in rupiya) at any of the 6 Nabil Bank locations (Maharajgunj in Kathmandu, Biratnagar, Brigunj, Butwal, Pokhara, or Nepalgunj). 3) Bring your receipt from Nabil Bank with you to your visa interview at the U.S. Embassy's Consular Section in Maharajgunj, Kathmandu.

gaurav: my question is regarding the renewal of f1 visa. my sibling is currently in us and he is studying masters program, and his visa has expired. he is planning to come to my wedding this december, and he is scared that his visa might be rejected. he is full time student, and he owns a property in us. wondering that will make any difference on renewing his visa when he comes here for my wedding. last time he was here has been more than five years

Consular Officer 2: It is easier for a continuing student to qualify for a new student visa as long as they have remained in status (a student in good standing) and as long as they can still afford their education.

Divas: If I have low academic certificate and that is evaluated or not in student visa

Consular Officer 2: At the time of your interview, one of the things you must demonstrate is

that you are an intending student. Past academic performance is just one indicator that we use to evaluate whether an applicant is qualified, but it is not the only indicator. Be prepared to talk about your past performance and the reasons why you did not do well. Remember, that past academic performance is only one piece of a large picture!

Munu: I have my cousins in the USA, can they be my sponsors?

Consular Officer 3: If your cousin is willing to support you financially, then he/she may be a financial sponsor for a visa. We encourage you to submit with your application a letter of sponsorship and documentation (tax forms, pay stubs, etc.) proving that he/she actually has the funds to sponsor you for that amount of money.

Ram Sharma: Does being denied a non-immigrant visa few months back decrease the chance of getting a DV visa now?

Consular Officer 3: No, being refused for a non-immigrant visa does not decrease your chances of getting a DV visa now. These are two completely different programs with different requirements.

Divas: Can we study Medical subjects in USA??

Consular Officer 2: Absolutely! You can study whatever subjects a University offers - it's your choice.

Krishna Prasad Pandey: Once a DV winner gains citizenship, what is the procedure to call his or her parents to USA?

Consular Officer 2: Once a DV winner becomes a U.S. Citizen, she or he may petition for his parents to come to the US as immigrants! That means that the parents will come to America and get their permanent residence (Green card.) This process takes about 8 months. If the parents just want to visit, they will need to apply for a tourist visa and demonstrate to the officer that interview them that they intend to leave the US after a short visit.

kabbin: i don't have scholarship but have very affordable university, is that as good as getting scholarship in similar but expensive college?

Consular Officer 4: The requirement is to show that you can afford the entire course of study in the US. Whether it's a less expensive school, or a scholarship at a more expensive school, either option makes it easier show you can afford it and then you can get the visa.

aroj: is it possible to be in us without TOEFL

Consular Officer 3: Be sure to check with your university or other academic institution to see if they require the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or other English test for admittance. It is not a standard requirement throughout the country, but many institutions do require it. The TOEFL is not a requirement for a student visa, though.

Consular Officer 3: Munu, as a follow up to your earlier question on sponsors: You do not

need a sponsor for a nonimmigrant (tourist) visa case. For immigrant or Diversity Visa case, however, you are required to have a more formal financial sponsor. If your cousin lives in the same household as the IV petitioner, he/she must complete an I-864A. If he/she lives elsewhere and wants to be a joint sponsor, have him/her complete an I-864.

jivan: is there chance that my visa be rejected even if i get full scholarship for both tuition and living?

Consular Officer 2: Money is just one aspect of qualifying for a student visa. You must also demonstrate that you are a legitimate student and that you intend to leave the US at the end of your course of study.

RaJU: My own brother is earning abroad, can I show his income?

Consular Officer 2: You may indeed show your brother's income but it's only helpful IF he is paying for your education expenses. You have to demonstrate not only that your brother earns money but that he is willing to help you pay for your education and also how much he is willing to pay.

Ram Sharma: what do i have to submit as evidence of local finance resource while applying for a DV visa? Do I need to submit property evaluation and Chartered accountant report? Or does a bank certificate in the name of the applicant only suffices?

Consular Officer 3: When applying for a diversity visa, you should submit with your application any documentation you feel best shows what you are qualified for the DV, such as educational or work qualifications. The financial documents must show that you have a qualifying sponsor in the US. So you should submit an affidavit of support with your application with tax information and/or pay stubs, showing that he/she has enough to support you for a short time, once you arrive in the United States.

kabbin: i heard its tough to get visa for spring session comparatively than fall, is that true?

Consular Officer 3: Thank you for your question. It is no harder or easier to get a visa in the spring session than in the fall. Consular Officers apply exactly the same laws and requirements all year around.

sadip: Is there any Age limit to apply for student Visa Even university issued I-20 ?

Consular Officer 2: There are no age limits for student visas.

humbal: It is said that the US embassy provides visa according to its consular's mood?

Consular Officer 4: Consular Officers apply the law equally to all applicants. That is why people get the same decision when they reapply, unless there has been a change in their circumstances.

ujjawal: i want to do summer internship from Stanford university of 2months?

ujjawal: i have no sponsor

ujjawal: i want scholarship from usef.

ujjawal: no i m doing engineering in india

Consular Officer 2: To qualify for a student visa you must demonstrate that you are a legitimate student, you can afford your entire program of study, and you intend to leave the US after the conclusion of your studies. Unfortunately USEF does not provide scholarships, but we encourage you to seek financial assistance from the university where you'd like to study.

Surya Raj Joshi: I have completed Master's degree in Nepal and intending to specialize in a subject in graduate level in US. Does this reduce the chance of getting VISA since I already have a degree here?

Consular Officer 3: Already having a master's degree does not necessarily make it harder to study in the United States. It all depends on what you want to study and why. You should be prepared to clearly explain why it makes sense for you to study for a second master's degree or a PhD and how this fits into your plans.

Krishna Prasad Pandey: once a DV winner becomes US citizen, can all of his or her the family members apply for immigrant visa?

Consular Officer 2: A US Citizen may petition for the following people: spouse, parents, children (including married sons and daughters), and siblings. However, immediate relatives (spouses, unmarried children under 18, and parents) get processed quickly - usually under a year. While processing times for other relatives - such as siblings - can take over 10 years.

Aakarsha: If the visa is expired before the completion of study, what is the procedure to extend the visa then?

Consular Officer 2: Firstly, you don't need a visa to be a student in the US; you only need a visa to enter the US. So if your visa expires while you are a student you will not need one UNLESS you plan to leave and come back to the US. In this case, you will need to apply for a new student visa. The law states that unless there are major changes in the students' situation, a new visa should be issued. Although it is uncommon for continuing students to not qualify for visas, it does happen when the student has fallen out of status or there is some other unusual circumstance.

gaurav: what are the documents required for renewing visa for student?

Consular Officer 3: When renewing a student visa, you should bring in to your visa interview your completed application, proof of payment from Nabil Bank, and your I-20 form. If you are renewing the visa but changing schools, you should bring in the I-20 for the new school, financial documentation if the price is substantially different, and proof of acceptance at the new school.

sadip: I have sufficient fund to study in US university, can I apply student visa with my self funds?

Consular Officer 3: Yes, if you have sufficient funds to cover the expense of your program and have enough evidence to convince the Consular Officer of this, then you may apply without additional support.

Ram Sharma: how much bank balance do i need to have in my bank as a evidence of local financial resource?

Consular Officer 2: There is no magic number that you need to have to demonstrate adequate financial resources. If all we required was a bank balance, then we would not need the interview, right? The interview is your opportunity to explain your finances to the consular officer. Use this interview to truthfully explain the situation and don't use on fake documents that were just prepared for the visa interview. The Consular Officers don't trust those documents!

Surya Raj Joshi 2: How much financial resources n property details is needed to be shown during visa application?

Consular Officer 3: There is no specific requirement for "how much" needs to be shown. You should submit as much financial information as you feel is appropriate to convince the Consular Officer that you have sufficient funds for your travel/studies. Again, don't rely on financial documents prepared just for the visa interview. Consular officers do not always trust those documents

Sanjay: What are the criteria for multiple visa? For study purpose as well work purpose.

Consular Officer 2: Most visas that people qualify for are given multiple entry visas. For example, a typical student visa is for 5 years and is multiple entry. Generally, so are tourist visas. A visa MAY be limited in specific situations, but this the exception rather than the rule.

sadip: what are the basic criteria to be issued non-immigrant student Visa?

Consular Officer 2: To qualify for a student visa you must demonstrate that you are a legitimate student, you can afford your entire program of study, and you intend to leave the US after the conclusion of your studies.

humbal: Can my parents (brother) sponsor in for US study?

Consular Officer 4: Yes, family members can provide financial support for your studies. You need to provide proof your family members ability and willingness to support your studies.

RaJU: I have applied for the student visa in this fall, 2009. I have to pay 14,300. Is there any possibility to get visa if I apply this semester with the same amount in that same college?

Consular Officer 3: If you were refused the visa because the Consular Officer did not think that you could afford the \$14,300 college program, then you should think about what has changed in your financial situation since your last interview. Ask yourself the question "Why would the Consular Officer think you could afford it now if you could not afford it last time?" and if I apply again what can I show the Consular Officer that I didn't show the last time.

abcd: My brother is earning abroad, can I show his income?

Consular Officer 3: If additional sources of income are required for the type of visa for which you are applying, or to help cover the expenses of a school you want to attend (for which you need a student visa), then you may include your brother's income with your application. Be sure to include proof of that income – tax forms, earnings statements, etc.

Krishna Prasad Pandey: How many types of visa are issued from US embassy Nepal?

Consular Officer 2: There are two basic categories of visas that we issue: non-immigrant visas and immigrant visas. Within those two categories there are many different types. There are over 15 different types of immigrant visas, and more than twice as many nonimmigrant visas. You are probably familiar with some nonimmigrant visas like: tourist visas, work visas, and student visas, but there are many many other types!

prava: i just been reject for student visa, i was continuing studies, what are my options?

Consular Officer 3: If you have been refused a student visa, you are always welcome to reapply. However, we strongly encourage you to think about the reason the Consular Officer told you did not qualify and not reapply unless something substantial has changed in your application.

abcd: Can I get visa if my I-20 shows \$18000 to pay? I came to know that for I-20 showing above \$10000 will be directly rejected?

Consular Officer 2: There are no rules on the amount of tuition, only that you must be able to afford your entire education. Some people can afford \$18,000 per year while others may not be able to afford \$6,000. Every applicant is evaluated on an individual basis and given an opportunity to demonstrate that she or he is a legitimate student, has the financial resources to afford their entire education, and intends to depart the US after the completion of their studies.

student1: i was departed from the USA last year for being out of status as a student. can i reapply to US colleges and get issued a visa, or am i forever blacklisted?

Consular Officer 3: If you were deported because you fell out of student status, then you are barred from reapplying from being issued a visa for a certain period of time. If you overstayed between 6 and 12 months, You are ineligible to enter the U.S. for 3 years. If you overstayed more than one year, then you are ineligible for 10 years the first time, and 20 years the second time it occurs. Overstaying your visa, though, is never a good thing to have on your record.

abc: I face my F-1 visa interview in July, however I was rejected for the visa stating that my college is expensive and the Scholarships that I received from the college is not good, and so I will not be able to afford the cost of attending the college. When I ask to my college advisor about the possibility to increase my Scholarships he told me that there is only one Scholarship name Welch Collegue Scholarships which is provided each year to 20 students if they qualify in one of the college tests

abc: This may help me to increase my Scholarships up to 75%. Now he told me that he will send me the revised version of I-20 to apply for the spring semester. He too is providing me with the test materials that may help me to prepare for the test and to qualify for that scholarship. So please tell me what should I do now should I face the interview again with the revised version of my I-20? What is the probability of getting the visa?

Consular Officer 2: There are no "probabilities" of qualifying for a visa. You must demonstrate, at the time of your interview, that you are a legitimate student, have the financial resources to afford your education, and that you intend to depart the US after you complete your studies.

chandani: would the chance of getting a visa will be higher if we get a good score on SAT

Consular Officer 2: You must qualify for a student visa based on three criteria: you are a legitimate student, have the financial resources to afford your education, and that you intend to depart the US after you complete your studies. A good SAT score would partially demonstrate that you are a legitimate student, but it is only a part of a larger picture - and consular officers take the whole picture into account when making their decision.

student1: can I get a visa surely after getting a full scholarship including lodging and fooding?

Consular Officer 4: You must qualify for a student visa based on three criteria: you are a legitimate student, have the financial resources to afford your education, and that you intend to depart the US after you complete your studies. A full scholarship demonstrates that you have the financial resources for your studies, but it is only a part of a larger picture - and consular officers take the whole picture into account when making their decision.

U.S. Embassy Nepal: Thank you for participating in our webchat! It is now 3:30 and we will be closing the chat shortly. We are working on a few answers still and those will be posted in the next ten minutes. Thank you for participating!

abcd: How many minutes do you take in an interview?

Consular Officer 3: The length of an interview varies, depending on the case. The average interview length is just a few minutes. Consular Officers are trained to ask important questions in a very short period of time. It is important, therefore, that you directly answer the questions asked by the Consular Officer.

Guest: Can I marry while studying there to get Green card?

Consular Officer 2: Marriage for the purposes of immigration is illegal. If you marry someone in the US you will have to undergo a lengthy process to demonstrate that you are really married, not just married for the purposes of immigration. If it is found that you are trying to avoid the laws of the US, you may be deported and barred from re-entry into the US for a number of years.

lisa: if someone do not have land as a property to show then what will be other option while visa interview?

Consular Officer 3: Land is not the only source of income that is important to an interviewing Consular Officer. Nor is it the only economic tie to Nepal we look at. If you do not have land, then you should explain in your interview where the money for your travel/program is coming from (salaries, investments, sponsors, etc.), and what are the social, economic, and family ties to Nepal which will make you return.

massum: I have my sponsor from Canada. He is related to me as Nephew. He is the son of my brother in law's brother in law. During August interview I have shown all the required documents in the interview, but I was rejected for the visa saying that "I don't believe that he can sponsor you???" Then.....how should I prove that he can sponsor me???

Consular Officer 3: If you want to prove that someone can sponsor you, you need to show proof of their income, as well as a letter of support from them, clearly explaining how much money they are willing to give you for your program/stay in America.

kabbin: during interview ,what does consular look for? scholarship or affordability

Consular Officer 3: If you are applying for a student visa, the Consular Officer is looking for 1) your intent to be a real student in the United States and 2) your ability to pay for the entire course of study. "Scholarship" and "affordability" go hand-in-hand, but if you are able to pay for the entire course of study, you might not necessarily need a scholarship.

sadip: we do respect that whatever you will have taken a decision either issue or deny at interview at consulate office that is your right. but i want to ask you last question, what is the measurement tools that issued visa student/s don't have fake documents?

Consular Officer 2: All documents submitted by visa applicants are carefully examined to make sure they are not fake. If we find that someone has submitted fake documents, they could be permanently barred from the US and we could turn these documents into the police. We have seen a lot of fake documents over the years and we are very good at finding them.

abcd: You have rejected my visa even without viewing it and not giving the reason of rejection, Why was it so? Was it fixed that I will not be given visa beforehand?

Consular Officer 2: Consular officers interview each applicant on an individual basis and the

decisions are made at the time of the interview, never beforehand. All applicants who do not qualify for a visa are given a reason why they did not qualify and a letter explaining relevant U.S. laws at the end of the interview.

U.S. Embassy Nepal: This concludes our webchat for October! Thank you for participating. We hope everyone had a chance to ask their question.

U.S. Embassy Nepal: You can read the transcript for this webchat at <http://nepal.usembassy.gov/webchat.html>

U.S. Embassy Nepal: Please check this webchat site and the U.S. Embassy Kathmandu website (<http://nepal.usembassy.gov/>) for information about future webchats!