

PREPARING FOR YOUR VISA INTERVIEW



To help you prepare for your interview, please review our guidance below. Note that the information contained in this resource is designed to provide general information on matters of interest only and should not be construed as legal advice.

Necessary Documentation

You must be sure that you bring all necessary documents for your interview. Necessary documentation includes:



- Passport
- Required Passport Photo(s)
- Visa fee and proof of visa fee payment
- SEVIS 901 Fee Payment Receipt
- Completed US. Non-Immigrant Visa Application Forms (DS-160)
- NKU Admissions/Acceptance Letter
- NKU I-20 (for F-1 students and their dependents) OR DS-2019 (for J-1 Students, Scholars, and Interns)
- Test scores and academic records
- Proof of English Proficiency (if applicable)
- Proof of financial support (bank statements, scholarship letters, affidavits, etc.)
- Evidence of ties to your home country
- Any other documents required by your specific embassy or consulate

Proving Your Stay is Temporary

U.S. law very clearly states that F and J visas may be given only to persons who intend to remain in the U.S. *temporarily*. This rule is the number one reason that visa applications are denied. You must prove that you intend to return to your country after completing your program. You can demonstrate this by following these tips:

- **You must have a definite academic or professional objective.** You must know what you are going to study and where it will lead. Be ready to say what you want to study and what kind of career it will prepare you for in your home country. Be prepared to explain why it is better for you to study in the U.S. than at home.
- **You must be qualified for the program.**
- **You must be definite about your choice of schools.** If you do not seem certain that you want to study or work at Northern Kentucky University, you will not get a visa.
- **You must be adequately financed and have documents to prove it.** Except in the case when employment is specifically authorized on the Form-I-20 (i.e. graduate assistantship), you may not plan to use employment as support while you are in the U.S.
- **Remain calm and impersonal when speaking to the consular officer.** Do not try to negotiate or discuss personal matters.
- **Do not emphasize any ties you may have to the United States or to family members in the United States.**

Review Other Resources

ISSS highly recommends reviewing NAFSA's ["10 Points to Remember When Applying for a Student Visa"](#) before your appointment. Also be sure to check your email frequently, as ISSS hosts a number of Visa Prep Webinars for prospective NKU students throughout the year.