

MVNU F-1 VISA PREPARATION GUIDE

TOP 10 REASONS FOR STUDENT VISA DENIALS

1: COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

The most decisive factor for receiving a student visa is the applicant's country of origin. Applicants from what the World Trade Organization considers Developed Countries receive fewer denials than those from Developing and the Least Developed Countries. Consuls also take into account the number of visas issued for your country as well as the number who have returned or failed to return. While this alone will not result in a denial, it is often difficult to overcome.

2: STRENGTH OF TIES

The next most decisive factor for receiving a student visa is Strength of Ties. Owning real estate in your home country, having a significant investment in a business there, or having a prestigious job awaiting your return are helpful, but even these are seen through the lenses of your age, work experience, international travel experience, family's standard of living, and the location of your hometown. You may need to plan ahead to overcome this barrier.

3: INTERVIEW PERFORMANCE

Visa interviews normally take fewer than 3 minutes, so first impressions are crucial. Your body language and the way you dress can be as important as your ability to clearly tell why you have selected your school and how your program of study fits your career plans. You must also be able to provide short, concise answers to other standard questions about your family, your plans for the future, etc.

4: FINANCES

Applicants for student visas must demonstrate they can pay for the first year of an academic program. But the quality of your financial documents and the reliability of your source are as important as the adequacy of the funds. Your documentation must be impeccable and your source must be trustworthy. Friends, fiancés, distant relatives, parents' business partners, and love interests in the U.S. are not considered reliable, long-term financial sources.

5: PREVIOUS APPLICATION

An applicant for a student visa who was previously denied a visa is at a distinct disadvantage, especially if the application was for a different visa classification — and more so if it was an employment-based visa (H-1B) or for Permanent Resident status (Green Card). The applicant may have already signaled a desire to immigrate, which is a contradiction to the purpose of a student visa.

6: SUBSTANTIAL TIME SPENT IN THE U.S.

When an applicant has already spent a significant amount of time in the U.S., the Consular Officer may believe the applicant's home country ties are becoming too loose. This is sometimes signaled by an applicant who has become too "Americanized." The Officer may determine that the applicant needs to spend some time at home to reestablish ties.

7: VISA APPLICATION

Errors and omissions on a visa application can result in denial. The most common errors include providing an incorrect visa classification, incorrect or incomplete name, incomplete education history, or incomplete travel history. Weak answers on a visa application can also lead to denial when the answer seems passive or should contain more detail.

8: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Visa applicants must bring all supporting documentation to the visa interview and be able to produce it quickly. Failing to supply adequate documentation or supplying falsified documents, whether or not you were aware, puts you at risk receiving a temporary refusal, an outright refusal, or even a permanent bar. Carefully gather all required documentation, organize it well, and practice being able to produce it quickly. At the interview, provide only what is requested.

9: RELATIVES ALREADY IN THE U.S.

Visa applicants are frequently asked about relatives currently in the U.S. Failure to disclose the presence of relatives may be considered a misrepresentation that could even lead to a permanent bar. Applicants for student visas who already have a sibling studying in the U.S. may be denied until that sibling returns.

10: SCHOOL CHOICE

Applicants for student visas must educate themselves about the schools to which they have applied. While the perceived quality of the school is not supposed to enter into a consul decision, it sometimes plays a part. This can be overcome if you can explain why you chose that particular school, how your program fits into your career plans, and how you will put it to use when you return.

We are always ready to assist you in the enrollment process for the International Executive Studies program.

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