

# International Admissions and Programs

## Visa interview tips and information on denials

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The following information is for students who will apply for an F-1 visa. Students inside the U.S. and Canadians will not need to apply for an F-1 visa.

It is common for students to be nervous at visa interviews. Students should be prepared to answer the embassy/consulate officer's questions honestly. It is the immigration officers' job to make sure that you meet qualifications as outlined under the Immigration and Nationality Act in order to receive the F-1 visa. They will ask you questions and review your documentation to verify that you meet the following:

1. You have a residence in your home country in which you have no intentions of leaving for the long term
2. You intend on leaving the U.S. after completing your course of studies
3. You must have enough funds available throughout your duration of studies

If you meet these qualifications then you are more likely to be approved for an F-1 visa.

Click [here](#) for more information.

It is also the embassy's and consulate's responsibility to make sure that visa applicants are not a threat to the safety of the U.S. Thus in some cases your visa application will also be put through a clearance checks. Clearance checks can delay the issuance of the U.S. visa.

The following information should provide you with the basics of understanding visa delays and visa denials.

### Visa Delays

Clearance checks can take weeks to months to complete. Unfortunately there is no way to decrease the wait time as the check is completed through multiple governmental agencies in the U.S. and abroad. Once the check is completed and the visa is issued the student will be informed of how to receive their documentation back from the U.S. Embassy/Consulate.

NOTE: Students are expected to be on-campus during the first Friday of classes at the latest. Thus if the processing of your visa is delayed too much you might not be eligible to attend classes once you receive it. If you face delays, you should contact your International Student Advisor to determine if you should defer your application to the next semester or if there is enough time to make it to campus.

### Visa Denials

An applicant for the F-1 visa can be denied if the consular officer does not believe that the applicant meets all of the F-1 qualifications. Unfortunately, when a visa has been denied the University of Houston-Clear Lake cannot change the outcome of the decision. Each time an applicant is denied a U.S. visa they should receive a form indicating why they were denied. Usually the Embassy/Consulate official will indicate a code for the denial. The following is a list of common denials:

**214(b):** Officer believes that the applicant is trying to immigrate (live permanently in the U.S.)

**221(g):** Officer did not see enough documentation from the applicant for the visa category

**212(a)(4):** Officer does not believe that the applicant has enough funds for purpose of visit to the U.S.

Students may re-apply for a visa. When re-applying for a visa applicants should bring additional evidence to overcome the reasons for the first denial. If applicants are not able to bring any additional documentation or information to the second interview it is likely that they will be denied again.