



ST. JOHN BOSCO HIGH SCHOOL

SALESIAN COLLEGE PREPARATORY

Preparing for Your F-1 Visa Interview

The next step on the F-1 Student Life Cycle

Now that you have received your Form I-20, the next step on the F-1 Student Life Cycle is to prepare for your F-1 Visa Interview. When applying for your F-1 Student Visa, you will have to do an interview at the United States consulate or embassy in your country. It is important to prepare for your interview in advance. You will want to schedule your visa interview appointment as soon as possible, as there are typically significant delays.

Eligibility: In your interview, it is important that you prove that you have intentions to return to your home country after your education is completed. If your visa interviewer knows that you want to become a permanent resident in the USA, your application will be rejected. Please be sure to bring your Official Acceptance Letter, and financial documents that show that you have sufficient financial backup to cover your living and study costs in the USA. It is very important to explain that you possess ties to your home country, including family ties, assets or bank accounts, etc.

F-1 Student Visa Interview Questions:

During the interview, visa officers are trying to figure out whether you are actually coming to the USA to study. The visa officer will ask questions about St. John Bosco High School and why you have applied to study at our school. Some example questions are as follows:

1. What is the name of the school you are planning on going to and why did you choose to go to this specific school?
2. What city ("Bellflower") and state ("California") is the school located in?
3. Who is the Primary Designated School Official at St. John Bosco High School ("Bryce Weiglin")?
4. What are the reasons for you coming to study in the USA?
5. How long are you planning to stay in the USA?
6. Tell us more about your academic and family background.
7. Are you also planning to study in college in the USA?

The visa officer will ask questions about your bank and finance situation. The visa officer wants to know if you will be able to be financially supported during your studies in the USA. You will want to bring back statements of those who will be financially supporting you. Some example questions are as follows:

1. Who is paying for your education?
2. How are they able to pay for it? What is their professional background?
3. What is the monthly income of the person(s) who is going to sponsor your studies?
4. How much does your school cost for a year?



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The visa officer will ask questions about relatives and family members. If you have relatives in the USA, be honest. Some example questions are as follows:

1. Do you have brothers and sisters? If yes, how many do you have?
2. Are any of them living in the USA, or do you have any other relatives living in the USA?
3. Did your parents, brother, sister complete any studies? Which ones?
4. In which country and in which city do your parents live?

The visa officer will ask questions about your work and job. Some example questions are as follows:

1. Do you work for financial gain?
2. If so, what is your salary?
3. Do you have any savings?
4. Once you have finished your studies, do you plan to stay in the USA to work?
5. Do you plan to work while studying?

The visa officer will ask you general questions. Some example questions are as follows:

1. What are your reasons for studying in the USA, rather than Canada, Australia, or UK?
2. Tell me some positive things about the USA. Why do you like the USA as a country?
3. Why do you want a USA high school diploma?
4. What are your expectations after you completed your studies at St. John Bosco High School?
5. I think you want to immigrate to the USA, or are you planning on going back home?
6. How does USA education system differ than your country's education system?
7. How can you prove to us that you won't stay in the USA after the completion of your studies?
8. Is it your first time to the USA or have you visited before?
9. What are your career goals back home after your studies?
10. What are your plans if your visa is not approved?
11. Are you planning to go home during your summer and winter vacation?
12. Why don't you want to study in your home country?
13. Why should we give you the possibility to study in the USA?
14. Do you think you deserve to get an F-1 visa?

Sample Mock Interview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ddi3Uq3bBjs>

Documents to Bring: Form I-20, DS-160, Receipt of visa application fee, SEVIS receipt fee, visa appointment letter, passport and recent photograph, academic certificates, documents confirming ties to your homeland, if financial dependent bring proof of relationship with the sponsor along with sponsor's salary proof and job details, acceptance letter from school.

How to Dress: Formal attire (button-up shirts and dress pants, no accessories). Make a good visual impression.



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Top 9 Tips for F-1 Visa Interview:

1. Make a good first impression: Arrive early, dress formally, give a strong handshake, appear confident
2. Communicate clearly
3. Speak English: Take your time and do your best
4. Prepare: there are two main things the interviewer wants to determine (a.) education plans, and (b.) financial support
5. Know your school and the programs it offers: make sure to be well-informed
6. Prove your intent to return home: F-1 visa is for academics, not life after your program ends
7. Keep your answers precise and concise: Practice your responses prior to the interview
8. Stay positive: do not overstress as it will make you appear questionable and flustered
9. Be honest and thankful

Good Luck!

Questions? Contact Bryce Weiglin, Director of International Admissions at St. John Bosco High School

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