

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL VISA INTERVIEW

It is important that you understand that the Consular Officer assumes you want to immigrate to the U.S. In your 2 – 3 minute interview, it is your job to convince him/her otherwise. **Having adequate and consistent financial support, and continually communicating/demonstrating your strong tie to your home country are the two most essential things you can do to have a successful visa interview.**

You should be prepared to show proof of and/or discuss the following:

1. Acceptance to CSU, Chico. Your acceptance letter and Form I-20 verify this.
2. Evidence of on-going financial ability to pay for school costs plus living expenses (the amount shown on the Form I-20). You may want to bring copies of financial documents you provided to CSU, Chico.
3. Appropriate preparation and ability to succeed in your academic program. You may want to bring copies of any standardized test scores, academic transcripts, diplomas or certificates from previous study you provided as part of your application to CSU, Chico.
4. Your stay in the United States is temporary (i.e., you are not permanently immigrating).
5. The interviewing official may be interested in how you intend to use the education you receive in the United States when you return home.

BE PREPARED TO:

- ✓ Speak for yourself
- ✓ Be concise
- ✓ Maintain a positive attitude
- ✓ Be honest
- ✓ Be confident

MOST QUESTIONS WILL BE RELATED TO:

- Your study plans
- Your university choice
- Your academic preparation
- Your access to adequate and stable funding
- Your career plans or long-term goals after graduation

SAMPLE QUESTIONS:

Study plans

- Why do you want to study in the U.S.? Why not Canada, Australia, or the UK?
- What do you know about the U.S. educational system?
- Why did you choose your course of study (major)?
- Why are you planning to continue your education?
- How does this study program relate to your past studies or work?
- Why are you choosing to study in the U.S. instead on in your home country?
- Do you have relatives or friends currently in the U.S.?

University Choice

- How many colleges did you apply to?
- How many schools did you get admitted to?
- What city is your school located in?
- Why did you choose to attend CSU, Chico?

Academic Capability

- Please show me your transcript(s) or test scores:
 - How did your previous education prepare you for your academic program at CSU, Chico?
 - What was your previous GPA?
 - What are your test scores (GRE, TOEFL, IELTS)?

Financial Status

- How much will it cost to finish your academic program?
- How do you plan to fund your education in the U.S.?
- What is your sponsor's occupation?

Plans After Graduation

- What are your post-graduation plans?
- Do you have a job or career in mind after graduation?
- Do you plan on returning back to your home country?
- Do you want to stay in the U.S. after you graduate?

Do you best to remain calm. Being well prepared is extremely important. Be sure to have all of the required documents and receipts with you so that you can focus on your interview questions. Answer all of the questions asked of you, and remember to be open and honest!