

US F-1 Student Visa — Interview Questions & Sample Answers

Sample answers show the **style** officers like — short, specific and honest. Replace the details with your own true situation; never memorise someone else's story.

Q1. Why did you choose this university?

Sample answer: The University of Texas at Dallas has a strong MS in Business Analytics with a focus on machine learning, and the course includes a capstone with industry partners. Its research in supply-chain analytics matches my work experience.

Tip: Name 2–3 specific things: course modules, faculty, labs, location or industry links. Avoid 'it's a good ranking university'.

Q2. Why this course?

Sample answer: I worked as a data analyst for two years and want to move into advanced analytics roles. The courses in predictive modelling and data mining will fill gaps in my skills.

Tip: Connect your past education/work with the course and your future goal.

Q3. Which other universities did you apply to?

Sample answer: I applied to five universities and got admits from three — UT Dallas, Arizona State and Northeastern. I chose UT Dallas for its curriculum and lower cost.

Tip: Be honest, including rejections. Explain why you chose this one.

Q4. Who is sponsoring your education?

Sample answer: My father is sponsoring me. He runs a manufacturing business with an annual income of about ₹35 lakh. I also have an education loan of ₹30 lakh sanctioned by SBI.

Tip: Know the numbers: total cost on I-20, your funding sources and your sponsor's income.

Q5. What does your father/mother do?

Sample answer: My father owns a textile business in Surat and my mother is a school teacher.

Q6. What are your plans after graduation?

Sample answer: I plan to gain some practical experience through OPT if possible and then return to India. Analytics teams in Indian companies are growing fast and my father's business also needs data-driven planning.

Tip: Show a clear plan that includes returning to India. Don't say you intend to settle permanently in the US.

Q7. What was your undergraduate score / GPA?

Sample answer: I graduated in Computer Science from Pune University with 8.2 CGPA.

Q8. Do you have any backlogs?

Sample answer: Yes, I had two backlogs in my second year, which I cleared in the next attempt. My scores improved after that.

Tip: Never hide backlogs — explain briefly and positively.

Q9. Do you have relatives in the US?

Sample answer: Yes, my cousin lives in California. I won't be staying with him.

Tip: Answer honestly; it is not a negative point by itself.

Q10. How will you pay for the second year?

Sample answer: My father's business income and savings will cover the remaining fees, and the loan disbursement covers part of the second year too.

Tip: Officers want to see that you won't run out of funds mid-course.

Interview day tips

- Know your I-20 amount, tuition fee and living costs by heart.
- Speak in your own words — memorised answers sound rehearsed and officers notice.
- Be specific about your course, not just the university's ranking.
- Carry original academic documents, but answer first; documents are secondary.