

Top 12 Visa Refusal Reasons & How to Avoid Them

Most refusals come from a handful of avoidable problems. Use this as a final review before you submit.

Reason	How to avoid it
Weak ties to India	Show stable job, property, family and a clear reason to come back. For US B1/B2 this is the core of 214(b).
Unclear purpose of travel	Give a specific, consistent reason with dates, places and supporting documents.
Insufficient or unexplained funds	Show regular income. Explain large recent deposits in your cover letter.
Inconsistent information	DS-160 / application form, cover letter, documents and interview answers must all match.
Wrong embassy (Schengen)	Apply to the country of main destination (most nights), or first entry if nights are equal.
Insurance not meeting requirements	Schengen: minimum €30,000 coverage, valid in all member states for all travel dates.
Fake or unverifiable documents	Never submit fake bookings, salary slips or bank statements — it can lead to long bans.
Poor interview communication	Answer briefly and honestly; don't recite memorised scripts.
Previous immigration violations	Overstays or refusals must be declared and explained honestly.
Missing documents	Use a checklist and arrange the file in the order requested.
Funds not held long enough (UK student)	Funds must be held for 28 consecutive days, ending within 31 days of applying.
Weak study plan (students)	Explain why this course, this university and this country, and how it fits your career.