

## What Documents to Bring

1. All appropriate U.S. Department of State forms are required by the consulate in your home country. Verify needed forms from the Embassy/Consulate Website.
2. Valid passport for at least six months into the future.
3. I-20 from CFNI (please make sure to sign "Student Attestation" before arriving to the interview)
4. Receipt for paid I-901 Fee.
5. DS-160 Visa application confirmation page
6. Acceptance Letter from CFNI
7. Embassy Letter from CFNI
8. Evidence of Financial Support proving enough funds for an entire year of studies at CFNI.
9. Documents proving your intent to return to your home country upon completion of your CFNI academic program and coursework.

## What to Prove During Your Interview

Preparation is vital when applying for a student visa. It will be essential for you to communicate to the visa officer that you wish to return home upon completing your studies at CFNI. To increase the likelihood of being granted a Student Visa, it is crucial to prove the following during your Visa Interview:

1. Prove your primary purpose for obtaining a Visa will be to study full-time at CFNI as a student.
  - a. Be ready to present a complete history of your academic career, including your secondary (high school) and University records (if applicable), showing you intend exclusively to continue your academic studies.
2. Prove that you have strong ties in your home country, plan to return upon completion of your program, and have no intent to immigrate to the United States.
  - a. Strong ties are various aspects of your life (professional, family, financial, etc.) that bind you to your country of residence. Strong ties may include: all your family resides in your home country and not in the U.S., you have a job awaiting you at home upon completing your studies, or all of your assets are in your home country and not in the United States.
  - b. Explain the benefit of your academic program to your home country.
3. Prove that you have sufficient funds to support yourself (and your family, if applicable) for an entire academic year studying at CFNI.
  - a. Provide the financial/bank statements indicating that you (or your Guarantor's/

Parents) have adequate funds to pay for an entire academic year including living expenses at CFNI. Also communicate that CFNI, following SEVIS policies, only asks proof of one academic year regardless of the length of the program. To further strengthen your case, present sufficient funds for the remaining years if you applied for an academic program longer than one year.

4. Have a valid passport for at least six months into the future.
  - a. Be sure your passport has been issued with more than six months left before its expiration.

## **Tips to Prepare for a Visa Interview**

1. Practice English for the Interview
  - a. Practice English conversation.
  - b. Even though CFNI does not require a TOEFL, your interview might be done in English and you are applying to an English School.
  - c. Communicate that you will complete an English assessment at the beginning of the semester. Based on the results of the assessment, if your English is not considered proficient, you will be required to enroll in an English language program called Remedial English while you are a student at CFNI.
2. Speak for Yourself
  - a. Do not bring parents or family members with you to the interview.
  - b. Be prepared to speak for yourself.
3. Be Brief
  - a. First impressions are significant as the interview may only last a few minutes.
  - b. Keep answers short and to the point.
  - c. Assure the consulate officer that your main purpose for traveling to the U.S. is to study.
4. Know information about why you want to attend CFNI
  - a. CFNI offers extensive training in many areas of ministry.
  - b. CFNI provides practical training that will enhance your abilities to impact and bless your home country positively.
  - c. CFNI has on-campus dorms and apartments.
  - d. CFNI offers one-year degrees, which allows students to finish their degrees faster than other universities and go back to their home country earlier.

## 5. Prepare Documents

- a. Read the Acceptance and Embassy letters from CFNI thoroughly and be familiar with all the details provided in the letters.
- b. Review other required documents thoroughly and have them neatly organized.
- c. Provide brief explanations only.

## 6. Know Home Country Regulations

- a. Understand the economic problems and conditions of your home country.
- b. Research the visa procedures of your home country.
- c. Know your future career/job plans upon returning to your home country.

## 7. Maintain a Positive Attitude

- a. Be confident, be prepared, speak clearly, and give short answers.

## 8. Answer Dependent Issues

- a. If your spouse and family are remaining in your home country, explain how they will support themselves in your absence.
- b. If your family decides to join you at a later time, have them apply at the same embassy where you applied for your visa.
- c. If your spouse is applying for an F-2, realize that dependents cannot under any circumstance be employed in the United States.

## 9. Denials

- a. Do not engage the consulate officer in an argument.
- b. Ask the officer for a list of documents they would suggest you bring to reevaluate the refusal.
- c. Obtain the reason you were denied in writing.
- d. Make an appointment for reapplication.
- e. Contact CFNI immediately.
- f. You can review more about visa denials [HERE](#).

For more information and videos about preparing for a visa interview, click [HERE](#).