## **Park University Visa Interview Tips**

By Kevin Vicker Senior Director of International Education

Visa will be determined by your ability to <u>convince</u> the visa officer of the following:

- 1) You have the academic focus to be a successful student in the USA
- 2) You can financially afford your studies

Credibility (that you are not lying) is very important.

## What to do:

- 1. BEFORE the interview, utilize <u>EducationUSA</u> resources in your country. EducationUSA advisors are the official US government advisors for study in the USA. This builds your profile and is important to gather information. <u>During your interview</u>, <u>mention that you visited EducationUSA interview or utilized EducationUSA resources</u>.
- 2. Give <u>very specific</u> answers (No general or broad answers). <u>Look the visa officer in the eyes</u> which is important culturally. Also, if you are applying for a bachelor's degree and have been out of school for <u>a long period of time</u> give specific reasons why and what you were doing during the gap in studies.
- 3. Own the interview. Do not wait for the visa officer to ask specific questions, take ownership of the interview and get the points across that you need to. The interview is very short. Pretend you are in a short job interview and need to make a case that you are the best candidate for the visa.
- 4. Provide a detailed explanation on why you chose the school you did and <u>your relationship to</u> <u>your financial sponsor and what your sponsor does for a living.</u> The bank statement should be sufficient for at least one year of studies but an explanation is needed as well.
- 5. Pay for a semester of fees in advance. Then bring the receipt of the payment to the visa interview and show the visa officer. For instructions, please contact Kevin Vicker at kevin.vicker@park.edu. It is refundable if you do not get the visa.
- 6. Make sure you bring the right documents which support your case. The documentation should match your professional interests (such as reference letters) and financial sponsorship (bank statements) Please see here for recommended documents: <a href="https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/student-visa.html">https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/student-visa.html</a>
- 7. Take the SAT for undergraduate studies or GRE for graduate studies. These exams are not necessary for admission to Park but show you are a serious student.