

Visa Delays

Much more common than a visa denial is a visa delay. This is why it is so important to apply for your visa EARLY! Here are some of the most common reasons for visa delays:

- Closing or reduced hours at U.S. visa issuing post abroad due to security concerns
- Closings or reduced hours at U.S. visa issuing post abroad due to political instability in the host country.
- Student or scholar's record does not appear in the SEVIS system at the U.S Embassy or Consulate, even though the student or scholar presents a SEVIS I-20 or DS-2019. **If you are told that your record does not appear in the visa officer's SEVIS system, immediately contact the Office of International Student Services at OISS@andromeda.rutgers.edu and provide the date and location of your visa interview. We will in turn contact the appropriate authority to have your SEVIS record re-submitted directly to the location where you have applied for your visa.**
- Students or scholar presenting proof of Federal SEVIS Fee Payment.
- The need for a security advisory opinion prior to visa issuance if the visa applicant is determined to be pursuing a "sensitive area of study" as indicated on the State Department's Technology Alert List.
- The need for a security clearance prior to visa issuance if the visa applicant has ever been arrested in the United States, or if the applicant has a name identical to or similar to as person with a previous arrest record.
- The need for a security clearance prior to visa issuance if the visa applicant is male, between the age of 16-46 and a citizen of or born in one of the designated countries requiring security clearances (Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Egypt, Eritrea, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen)
- The need for a security clearance for any non immigrant visa applicant male or female, age of 16 or older who is a national of or permanently residing in Cuba, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Sudan or Syria. Such individuals will not be issued visas unless the applicant can show evidence that he or she is not a threat to U.S. National Security.

- The New U.S. Department of State requirement that all applicants for non-immigrant visas be interviewed. This new policy has created delays at visa issuing post around the world.

Similar to a visa denial, the visa officer must verbally inform you of the reason for the visa delay. If your visa is delayed, please send an e-mail message to OISS@andromeda.rutgers.edu and provide the date and location of your visa interview, and details regarding the reason given by the visa officer for the delay.

The U.S State of Department has prepared information on student visas on its website that may be useful to you.

Visit: <http://www.unitedstatesvisas.gov/studying.html>