General Information:

After you have received your immigration documents and reviewed them, the next step is to set an appointment with the U.S. Consulate for your visa application. If you are not sure which US Embassy or Consulate is closest to you, please visit the US Department of State website for a list of U.S. missions around the world: http://usembassy.state.gov/. Once you have found the Consulate closest to you, please visit the “visa” section of the website to learn about the required procedures for setting an appointment and how to prepare for your interview.

10 Helpful Tips- U.S. Visa Application:

1. **Ties to Your Home Country**
   Under U.S. law, all applicants for nonimmigrant visas, such as student visas, are viewed as intending immigrants until they can convince the consular officer that they are not. You must be able to show that you have reasons for returning to your home country that are stronger than those remaining in the United States. “Ties” to your home country are the things that bind you to your home town, homeland, or current place of residence: job, family, financial prospects that you own or will inherit, investments, etc.

   Each person’s situation is different and there is no magic explanation or single document, certificate, or letter which can guarantee visa issuance.

2. **English Ability**
   The visa interview will be conducted in English and not in your native language. One suggestion is to practice English conversation with a native speaker before the interview, but do not prepare a speech. If you are coming to the U.S. solely to study intensive English, be prepared to explain how English will be useful for you in your home country.

3. **Speak for Yourself**
   Do not bring parents or family members with you to the interview. The consular officer wants to interview you, not your family. A negative impression can be created if you are not prepared to speak on your own behalf.

4. **Know the Program and How It Fits Your Career Plans**
   If you are not able to articulate the reasons you will study in a particular program in the U.S., you may not succeed in convincing the consular officer that you are indeed planning to study, rather than to immigrate. You should also be able to explain how
studying in the U.S. relates to your future professional career when you return home.2/8/2019

5. Be Brief
Because of the volume of applications received, all consular officers are under considerable time pressure to conduct a quick and efficient interview. They must make a decision, for the most part, on the impressions they form during the first minute of the interview. Consequently, what you say first and the initial impression you create are critical to your success. Keep your answers to the officer's questions short and to the point.

6. Additional Documentation
It should be immediately clear to the consular officer what written documents you are presenting and what they signify. Lengthy written explanations cannot be quickly read or evaluated. Remember that you will have 2-3 minutes of interview time.

7. Not All Countries are Equal
Applicants from countries suffering from economic problems or from countries where many students have remained in the U.S. as immigrants will have more difficulty getting visas. Statistically, applicants from those countries are more likely to be intending immigrants. They are also more likely to be asked about job opportunities at home after their study in the U.S.

8. Employment
Your main purpose in coming to the U.S. should be to study, not for the chance to work before or after graduation. While many students do work off-campus during their studies, employment is incidental to their main purpose of completing their U.S. education. You must be able to clearly articulate your plan to return home at the end of your program. If your spouse is also applying for an accompanying F-2 visa, be aware that F-2 dependents cannot, under any circumstances, be employed in the U.S. If asked, be prepared to address what your spouse intends to do with his or her time while in the U.S. Volunteer work and attending school part-time are permitted activities.

9. Dependents Remaining Home
If your spouse and children are remaining behind in your country, be prepared to address how they will support themselves in your absence. This can be an especially tricky area if you are the primary source of income for your family. If the consular officer gains the impression that your family will need you to remit money from the U.S. in order to support themselves, your student visa application will almost certainly be denied. If your family does decide to join you at a later time, it is helpful to have them apply at the same post where you applied for your visa.

10. Maintain a Positive Attitude
Do not engage the consular officer in an argument. If you are denied a student visa, ask the officer for a list of documents he or she would suggest you to bring in order to overcome the refusal, and try to get the reason you were denied in writing.