

International Student and Scholar Office
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INVITING FAMILY MEMBERS OR FRIENDS AS B-2 VISITORS

The following suggestions are meant as advice only. U.S. Consulate officers abroad may have different or additional policies regarding the issuance of visitor visas.

You should prepare the following materials and send them to your relative or friend.

1. A letter from you to your relative or friend, in English, as an invitation to visit you in the United States. This letter will be used for the visa application and also by the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (BCBP) at the Port of Entry. It should include:
 - A. Purpose of the visit: The BCBP will be interested in learning the purpose of the visit. Therefore, you should include in your letter the proposed activities for your guests, such as attending a commencement ceremony, visiting cities along the East Coast, visiting other family members, etc.
 - B. Length of the visit: Recent changes to the B (visitor) regulations require the BCBP Officer at the U.S. Port of Entry to only grant an amount of time reasonable for the completion of the purpose of the visit. Therefore, you should clearly state in your letter the expected length of the visit, so the BCBP officer does not issue an entry permit (Form I-94) with a shorter length of stay than you have planned.
 - C. A statement regarding your financial support during the visit, if any. (If you are not providing financial support and room/board, then the applicant may also need documents showing financial ability, such as a bank statement.
 - D. Where your relatives will live while in the U.S.
2. Evidence of your student status. You can get a transcript and/or schedule from Enrollment Services and the ISSO can provide a letter verifying your F-1 student status*.
3. Evidence of financial ability, if you will be providing support (bank statement, assistantship letter, or other financial document).

*The ISSO verification letter can include whatever information is provided to us, such as: (1) name of visitor (please spell the name as it appears in the person's passport) (2) relationship of the visitor to you (such as "my mother" or "my male cousin", (3) reason for the visit (vacation, your graduation, etc.) (4) length of visit (including approximate arrival date). We will create one letter with all persons listed and then issue the required number of originals unless otherwise requested.

Note: A spouse and children may come to the U.S. as your dependents in F-2 status, and be given permission to remain in the U.S. for the same length of stay as you. Each dependent will need their own Form I-20 prepared for that purpose and documentation of additional financial support is required. Speak to an advisor at the ISSO for details.