

INVITING FAMILY MEMBERS TO VISIT YOU IN THE UNITED STATES

International students and scholars often invite family members to visit them in the United States. Dependent family members (spouse and children) should apply for F-2, J-2 or H-4 dependent visa status. Other family members (Aunts, Uncles, etc.) must enter the U.S. on a Visitor Visa. The "visitor" visa is a nonimmigrant visa for persons wanting to enter the United States for pleasure (B-2).

For additional information, visit the U.S. Department of State website:
<https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/visit/visitor.html>.

Some international students and scholars provide a letter of invitation and supporting documentation that a family member can show at the visa appointment. While the Center for International does not provide invitation letters, we will provide a sample letter of what you want to include in your letter. Providing your family members with these documents may improve their chances of obtaining a visa. However, even with the invitation letter, there is no guarantee a visa will be issued.

HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU SHOULD INCLUDE IN YOUR VISA INVITATION LETTER:

- Write the letter in English
- State whom you are inviting
- State the reason for the visit (i.e. vacation, attend graduation, meet a new baby)
- State the dates (even approximate dates) of the visit
- If you will be providing financial support, state what financial support you are offering (for example, cost of travel, room and board)

SAMPLE LETTER:

(Date) _____
U.S. Consular Official

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

My name is _____ and I am majoring in _____ at the University of Northern Colorado, planning to graduate in _____. I would like to invite my _____ to visit me between _____ and _____ in 20___. I will provide for their _____ (room and board or airfare, etc.) expenses while they are here, and they will be in charge of all remaining expenses. The following is some information about my relatives (or friends) to assist with their visa applications: name, date of birth, city and country of birth, and country of citizenship. Thank you for your assistance in providing a B-2 visa so that _____ can visit me in the United States.

Sincerely,

(Signature) _____
Your name and address
Your phone number and email