

## Inviting Your *Relatives* to the United States for a Visit (Tourist visa: B-2)

- ✓ **Relatives** such as parents, brother, sister, in-laws, etc. need to obtain a **tourist visa (B-2 visa)** in order to visit, even if they plan to live with you during their stay.
- ✓ While a “Certificate of Eligibility” (I-20 or DS-2019) is issued for your dependents (spouse / children), **there is no visa document issued to a student who wishes to invite relatives mentioned above.**

### Please follow these steps if you want to invite relatives mentioned above:

1. Write a **letter of invitation** to the relatives both in English and in your native language, including the following information (see sample on reverse):
  - ❖ The **reason** for the invitation (e.g., inviting them to your graduation ceremony)
  - ❖ The **length** of stay (6 month maximum)
  - ❖ The **place** of stay
  - ❖ The **source of their financial support** during stay.
2. Print out an **Unofficial Transcript on MyUAlbany** (>Academics>Records Services>Unofficial Transcript).
3. Make a **copy of your passport ID page and I-20 or DS-2019 form.**
4. If the funding comes from you, provide a **bank statement** to the relative to demonstrate that there is sufficient funding available for room, board and other expenses necessary for a tourist. Otherwise, your relative should show proof of having enough funding to cover their expenses during the visit.
5. It is up to the visa applicant (your relative) to show that he or she **is not an intended immigrant to the United States** and to show that he or she has enough money to live in the United States for the period of the B-visa status. Documentation of property and bank accounts, a good description of family and social ties, and proof of a job back home are all good ways to prove “strong ties” to the home country.

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Last, send the items 1, 2, 3, and 4 to your relatives so that these documents will be presented along with the visa application form at the U.S. Embassy / Consulate.

**If you have questions, please ask ISSS staff.**

**SAMPLE INVITATION LETTER FOR STUDENTS  
WHO WISH TO INVITE FAMILY MEMBERS  
TO VISIT OR ATTEND THEIR GRADUATION CEREMONY**

Date

Consular Officer  
U.S. Embassy [or Consulate]  
[Street Address]  
[City, State/Province/Prefecture]  
[Country]

Dear Consular Officer,

My name is [name] and I am an [F-1, J-1] student at the University at Albany pursuing a [Bachelor's, Master's, PhD] degree in [field of study]. My SEVIS number is [N00\_\_\_\_\_] and copies of my [I-20, DS-2019] passport and academic transcript are attached.

I wish to invite the following family member(s) to the United States to [attend my graduation ceremony, sightsee, etc.] on [date].

[FAMILY NAME, First name - date of birth, relationship to you]

As my guest, [name(s)] will stay at [my apartment, a hotel] during the visit from [date] to [date]. As can be seen in the attached financial documentation, the costs of the visit will be covered by [family member, personal funds, etc.].

Thank you for your time and consideration of [name's(s')] visa application.

Sincerely,

[Student Name]