

Inviting Extended Family and Friends: B-2 Tourist Visa

Many students wish to invite friends and family for a short visit to the United States. The B-2 visitor visa is a good choice for visits of 6 months or fewer in duration or for family members who do not qualify for an F-2 or J-2 dependent visa (such as parents, siblings, cousins, etc.). As a student, you can provide supporting documents for the B-2 visa application (List A below). This is not a comprehensive list of all documents required for the B-2 visa. Comprehensive information can be found on the website of the [U.S. Embassy](#) where the visa application will be made.

A support letter from YSU is NOT required for the visitor visa and will not be issued. In regards to the visitor visa, the [U.S. State Department](#) has confirmed that "Visa applicants must qualify on the basis of the applicant's residence and ties abroad, rather than assurances from U.S. family and friends. A letter of invitation or Affidavit of Support is not needed to apply for a nonimmigrant tourist visa. If you do choose to bring a letter of invitation or Affidavit of Support to your interview, please remember that it is not one of the factors that we use in determine whether to issue or deny a nonimmigrant tourist visa."

A. To invite your relatives (any family members other than your spouse and children) and friends to the U.S., you may send the following to the person(s) invited:

1. A letter of invitation written by YOU in English, stating that you would like to invite the person for a visit. The letter should include:
 - a. name and relationship to you of the visitor(s)
 - b. the length of the visit
 - c. who will provide financial support for the visit (if you, provide evidence of support – see below)
 - d. the purpose of the visit (for example, to attend graduation)
2. If the visit is to attend your graduation ceremony, you can request an [Enrollment Verification Letter](#) from the YSU Penguin Service Center. This letter will contain your expected graduation date.
3. Evidence of your student status, such as a copy of your I-20/DS-2019
4. If you will support the person's visit financially, you should provide evidence of financial support (a bank statement, your assistantship letter, your sponsor's letter, etc.)

B. Your family members or friends should also bring “proof of ties” to their home country when they apply for the visa at the U.S. consulate, such as:

- Copies of deeds to any property (land, house, apartment) they own in their home country
- Bank statements of any accounts they maintain at home
- If they are employed, bring a letter from the employer stating they will return to the job after the U.S. visit
- All other documentation as specifically required by the Embassy or Consulate (check website for the necessary documentation: <http://usembassy.state.gov/>)

Additional information about the B-2 Visa:

- B-2 visitors are not permitted to study or work in the U.S.
- B-2 visitors may apply for an extension of stay with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services by filing an I-539 and demonstrating finances and purpose of the extension. The Form I-539 form, instructions and fees can be found at www.uscis.gov.
- Note: The length of the visa does not equate to the length of stay. When visitors enter the U.S., their documents will be inspected by a U.S. border official. The officer will determine the amount of time the visitor will be permitted to remain in the U.S. and write that date on the I-94 Arrival/Departure record. The maximum period of admission for a regular B-2 visitor is 6 months.

For detailed information about the B visitor visa, visit: <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/visit/visitor.html>

To determine if your friend or family member is a citizen of a country in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP), check the State Department's website: http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1990.html