

## 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](http://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](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1990.html)