**Inviting Family and Friends to the U.S. for a Visit**

**(B-1/B-2 Visitors)**

**Overview**

Family members who are not the children or spouse of the F-1 /J-1 must apply for a B-1/B-2 visitor visa to visit the U.S. Family members from certain countries may be eligible to visit the U.S. for up to 90 days without obtaining a B-1/B-2 visa through the [U.S. Department of State Visa Waiver Program](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/tourism-visit/visa-waiver-program.html).

**Documents Needed to Apply for B-1/B-2 Visa**

The following documents are required to apply for a B-1/B-2 visitor visa:

* Valid passport
* Photographs
* Visa application fee
* [Visa application forms](https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/)

**Additional Recommended Documents**

* A formal letter of invitation (written by you as the F-1 student or J-1 exchange visitor) indicating the specific reason for the visit (e.g., graduation, wedding, birth of a child). The letter should include information about the purpose of travel, planned activities, and length of stay. It may also include information about your U.S. immigration status as an F-1 student or J-1 exchange visitor.
* Proof of Current Enrollment – Students may obtain an official enrollment certificate through their [VandalWeb](https://vandalweb.uidaho.edu/)by selecting *Proof of Enrollment* under the Students tab after the beginning of each semester. Students are connected to the NSC website where they may choose either a *Current enrollment* or *All enrollment* under the Obtain an enrollment certificate option to generate a PDF official enrollment certificate that the student may print to provide to a requestor. These certificates are official and nationally accepted for enrollment verifications.
* Proof of employment – a letter from the employer indicating that the family member is currently employed and taking time off, but is returning to their job on a specific date.
* Proof of property ownership – house, apartment, or a business.
* Proof of finances – bank statement, investments, property.

For more information about B-1/B-2 visa denials, refer to the [U.S. Department of State Visitor Visas](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/visa-denials.html).

For more information about B-1/B-2 visas, refer to the [U.S. Department of State Visitor Visas](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/tourism-visit/visitor.html).

**Sample Invitation Letter for Inviting Relatives and Friends**

(Date)

Chief Consular Officer

The United States of America Consulate General

(City), (Country)

Dear Consul,

My name is (your name), and I am an (F1 or J1) (student or scholar) at University of Idaho in Moscow, ID, pursuing a (Bachelor’s, Master’s or Doctoral) degree in (field of study). An official enrollment certificate and a copy of my (I-20 or DS-2019) are attached as proof of my current enrollment at the University of Idaho.

I wish to invite the following individual(s) to visit me for (example: my graduate ceremony at University of Idaho, summer vacation, wedding, birth of child, etc.):

First Name, LAST NAME (as it appears in passport)

Date of Birth, Relationship to you

My guest(s) will be visiting me from (month day, year) until (month day, year) and will stay at (my residence or other location) during their visit. Thank you for your time and consideration of the attached visa application.

Sincerely,

(Your name)