



## Invitation Letter Request

To invite parents and other non-dependent relatives and friends to visit a UM-D student or scholar

**Please fill out the form completely. Do not use abbreviations**

☐ Please mail the letter to me at the address listed below.

☐ Please email me to pick up the letter.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Visa Status: F1\_\_\_\_\_ J1\_\_\_\_\_ Other\_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree you will receive (if a student): \_\_\_\_\_

Your Major (if a student): \_\_\_\_\_ Your Expected Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Person(s) you wish to invite. Please provide **all** information requested. Use the Name as it appears in the Passport.

First Name	Last Name	Relationship to You	Date of Birth (month/day/year)	Country of Citizenship

Reason for Visit: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Planned Activities in US: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Dates of Visit: From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
Month/Date/Year Month/Date/Year

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to the International Office



## OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### Inviting Parents, Non-Dependent Relatives, and Friends to Visit the U.S.

#### What kind of visa should my relatives obtain?

Your relatives will need a B-2 visitor visa.

Parents and siblings of people in F-1 or J-1 status are not eligible for F-2 or J-2 status. Forms I-20 and DS-2019 are not issued to invite parents, parents-in-law, or siblings. If you wish, you may send your relatives a copy of your I-20 or DS-2019 form, but they should **not** submit it to the consular officer unless asked for it. **Do not** send your original I-20 or DS-2019 to your parents, other non-dependent relatives, or friends. You should retain the form yourself.

#### What documents do my relatives need to obtain a B-2 visa?

- 1. An invitation from you:** write a letter in English to your relative, stating: **Whom** you are inviting; ; the **purpose** of the visit (for example, vacation, attend graduation, meet a new baby); the **dates** (even approximate dates) of the visit and what **financial support** you are offering (for example, cost of travel, room and board)
- 2. Evidence of Financial support:** if you are going to provide any financial support for the visit, you need to furnish your relatives with appropriate documentation. This could be a letter verifying employment and /or a bank statement showing not just you current balance(s), but also the *history* of the account was opened and the average monthly balance.
- 3. Visa application form, along with photographs:** your relatives will need to complete the same visa application forms you completed to obtain your own visa. They will obtain these forms from the consulate. The forms, called DS-156 and DS-158, are also available at the Department of State website [http://travel.state.gov/visa\\_services.htm#apps](http://travel.state.gov/visa_services.htm#apps). All male relatives between 16 and 45 years of age will also be required to complete form DS-157.
- 4. Evidence of ties to the home country:** The reason U.S. consular officers most **frequently deny** B-2 visa applications is lack of evidence of strong ties to the visitor's home country. Under U.S. law, consular officers are not supposed to issue a B (or F or J) visa if they don't believe the applicant has ties that will bring him or her back home. For more information on this matter, go to <http://www.usembassy.org> and find the name of your country. Chinese students, in particular may want to go to <http://www.usembassy-china.org.cn/English/visa/index.html>.
- 5. Support letter from the international Office:** U.S. consular officers sometimes ask B-2 visa applicants for a letter certifying that the people inviting them are in fact students or scholars in the United States. **If you need such a letter, complete the international Office's "Invitation Letter Request" form attached to this packet and return it to the International Office.** An invitation letter will be sent to you within a week. You can send the letter to your relatives.

#### How long can people in B-2 status stay in the United States?

The length of a visitor's initial permission to stay in B-2 status is determined by the officer at the port of entry. The maximum initial period is six months. People who want to remain longer need to apply for an extension later. There is no specified limit on the number of extensions allowed. Be aware that the USCIS requires at least four months to process an application for extension in B-2 status. That does not mean your visitors need to apply for extension four months in advance. Their obligation is to make sure the USCS *receive the extension application before their current stay expires*.

#### B-2 Visitors who wish to enroll in a degree program

As of April 12, 2002, all visitors in B status who entered the U.S. on or after that date are restricted from enrolling in a degree program until they have been admitted to F-1 status. Such enrollment will constitute a violation of status and could result in serious consequences. It is also becoming increasingly difficult for visitors in B status to change to F-1 status while in the U.S. if you have a relative who is considering even the possibility of applying for a degree program in the U.S., please contact the International Student Adviser for information on the best course of action to be taken.