



Inviting Family and Friends to the U.S. Guidance

Alderson Broaddus University does not issue invitation letters for students' family members or friends. According to guidance from the U.S. Department of State, such a letter is neither necessary nor useful for the application for a B-1 (Business) and/or B-2 (Pleasure) Visitor's Visa. If your family/friends wish to visit you in the U.S., they may need to apply for a visitor visa, unless their country of citizenship is listed as a [Visa Waiver Program \(VWP\)](#) participant. However, you can request enrollment verification and unofficial transcripts by emailing the registrar's office at reg@ab.edu.

For general information on qualifying and applying for a visitor visa, go to the Department of State's information on [Visitor Visas - Business and Pleasure](#). Specific instructions on documentation requirements for the B-1/B-2 visa application at the embassy or consulate where your relatives will apply can be found at [Websites of U.S. Embassies, Consulates, and Diplomatic Missions page](#).

In preparation for their visa application and interview, your family/friends will need to prove **WHY** they are coming to the U.S., **WHAT** they will be doing here, **WHERE** they are going in the U.S., **WHEN** they will be in the U.S. and **WHEN** they will return to their home country and, lastly, **HOW** they will support themselves while they are in the U.S. They will need to thoroughly read the instructions for visitor visa applications. These instructions can be found on the website of the U.S. embassy/consulate where they will apply for the visa. **The consulate website should list what documents the applicants must prepare and present in their application.** This is a personal application in which applicants must demonstrate their eligibility through a visa interview. The following information provides additional tips for visitor visa applications. If your family/friends are from a [VWP](#) participating country, this information is still applicable to them as they may be questioned at the port of entry.

Writing an Invitation Letter - You may write a letter for your relatives inviting them to visit you.

Include the following for each family member:

- First and last name
- Birth date
- Relationship to you
- Passport number
- Purpose and length of time of the visit
- Will you provide their room and board during their visit

NOTE: If you are providing your visitor(s) a place to stay and meals, it is best if you can document this with a lease or room contract and your bank statements from the last 2 - 3 months. If you are not providing this support, your visitor(s) will need to provide evidence of their own financial resources for the visit.

Additional Information - You should also include a copy of your I-20 or DS-2019 and I-94 card as evidence of your immigration status in the U.S.

U.S. immigration law requires an applicant for a visa to overcome "the presumption of immigrant intent". This means that the individual should demonstrate that they have strong ties to their home country such as employment, property, and family and have no intention of staying permanently in the United States.