

Inviting Family to Visit the United States

Adding a Spouse or Child(ren)

If a student or scholar will be in F-1 or J-1 status, the legal spouse or children under age 21 may be eligible for F-2/J-2 status to accompany or to follow the student or scholar separately to the U.S. To request a Certificate of Eligibility I-20 (F) or DS-2019 (J) for the purpose of applying for F-2/J-2 visa, complete **the International Student Financial Affidavit of Support** and submit the form with financial documentation to International Students and Scholars Office, UH 244. A dependent I-20 or DS-2019 will be prepared for each family member.

After picking up the new dependent I-20 or DS-2019(s), the document(s) must be delivered to the family member (by mail or person) for the individual to apply for the appropriate visa at U.S. embassy or consulate.

Extended Family and Domestic Partners

Extended family (parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts, uncles, etc.) and domestic partners are not eligible to come to the U.S. as “dependents” in F-2 or J-2 status. They must apply for a B-1/B-2 visitor visa or come to the U.S. under the Visa Waiver Program. To facilitate the process of applying for a B-1/B-2 visitor visa, the student or scholar can do the following (optional):

1. **Write a letter of invitation**

Please refer to the template letter to prepare a customized letter. Include a statement of your status, the purpose of the visit, the relationship of the individual, and the length of time the family member(s) will be visiting the U.S. Mention if the individual has a job in the home country to which they plan to return. If the student or scholar plans to provide for the family member’s living and travel expenses while in the U.S. include this in the letter.

2. **Obtain an enrollment verification letter**

<http://admissions.fullerton.edu/currentstudent/verification.php> and/or **official academic transcript** (<http://admissions.fullerton.edu/currentstudent/transcripts.php>) from Admissions and Records.

3. Send photocopies of your immigration documents (passport, visa, I-94, I-20 or DS-2019) to your relatives for their visa application.

4. If relatives are coming for graduation ceremony, it is a good idea to provide a document showing when the University commencement will take place, e.g. printout from CSUF website and an email showing you are approved as a candidate for graduation.

Providing family members with all of the above papers may improve their chances of obtaining a visa. However, there is no guarantee a visa will be issued. The success of the applicant’s visa application is determined by a consular officer.

INVITATION LETTER TEMPLATE

[Date]

U.S [Embassy or Consulate]

[Address, location of Embassy or Consulate]

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is **[insert your full name]**. I am a **[your position: graduate or undergraduate student]** at California State University, Fullerton in **[F-1 or J-1]** status, pursuing a **[Bachelor's, Master's, Doctoral]** degree in **[list major]**. **[If you are a student on post-completion Optional Practical Training or Academic Training you should state this here.]**

I am writing this letter to confirm that I have invited my **[name of person(s) being invited]**, **[state relationship to you: father, mother, sibling, etc.]**, citizen(s) of **[country]**, to visit me for a period of **[number of weeks or months]** in California. **[Briefly state the purpose of the visit here.]**

[Name of person(s) being invited] will be presenting this letter to you along with evidence to establish **[his or her]** ties to **[country]** and to assure you that they will return prior to the expiration of their stay in the United States. During **[his/her]** time in the U.S., I certify that I will be fully responsible for the cost of room, board, travel expenses within the U.S. **(state this only if it is true)**.

Your consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

(Student's Signature)

[Print Student's Name]

[Address]