

International students and scholars often invite family members to visit them in the United States. Dependent family members (spouse and children) should apply for F-2, J-2 or H-4 dependent visa status. Other family members (Aunts, Uncles, etc.) must enter the U.S. on a Visitor Visa or under the Visa Waiver Program.

The "visitor" visa is a nonimmigrant visa for persons wanting to enter the United States temporarily for business (B-1), for pleasure (B-2), or combination of both (B-1/B-2) purposes. For additional information, visit the U.S. Department of State website <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/tourism-visit.html>.

Some international students and scholars choose to provide a letter of invitation and supporting documentation that a family member can show at the visa appointment. The IC does not provide invitation letters. Providing your family members with these documents may improve their chances of obtaining a visa. However, even with the invitation letter, there is no guarantee a visa will be issued.

The success of the applicant's request for a visa lies in their ability to prove that they have no intention of staying permanently in the United States; therefore, they must provide proof of a close connection to their home country. For more information, please visit the U.S. Department of State website regarding visitor visas.

If you choose to provide documents, below is a list of recommended documents:

1. Invitation Letter

- Include the purpose of the visit, the relationship to the student/scholar, a statement of the student/scholar's status in the U.S., and the length of time family will be visiting.
- You may want to mention that the individual has a home, a job and/or business to which they plan to return. If you plan to provide for their support while they are here, include financial information (see sample letter).

2. Proof of Enrollment or Employment at UCI:

- Students: request a letter verifying enrollment from the Registrar's Office in Aldrich Hall.
- Scholars: request an employment verification letter from your Academic Department. The letter must verify employment, dates of employment, title, and salary.

3. Financial Documents

- If you plan to provide financial assistance to your family members while in the U.S., and if you are not being paid a salary, you must request a financial statement from your bank.

Please take a look at the back side of this form to see a sample Invitation Letter 

Sample Invitation Letter

[Please note that the International Center does not provide invitation letters; this is a sample that you may use to write a letter.]

Date _____

I, the undersigned, would like to invite _____

for a temporary stay in the U.S. for the period beginning _____ to _____

The purpose of the visit is _____

_____.

Host (Student/Scholar) Information:

Name: _____

Current Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Passport Number: _____ Valid Until: _____

Current Immigration Status _____ Date of Initial Entry to the US _____

Relationship to guest _____

Visitor Information:

Name: _____

Current Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Passport Number: _____ Valid Until: _____

Occupation in Home Country: _____

Name and Address of Employer: _____

Source of Funding During Stay in U.S.: _____

Signature of Host

Print Name of Host