

International Student and Scholar Services

Inviting friends and family members to visit the United States

The Office of International Education, Office of the Registrar and Communications and Marketing do not issue letters requesting consulates to issue visitor (B1/B2) visas for friends or family members to come to the U.S. Instead the individual who the tourist is visiting in the U.S. should write the invitation letter. An invitation letter identifies for the Consular officer the purpose of the visitor's stay in the U.S. as well as details regarding the visitor's stay.

The most common reason a tourist visa is denied is because the applicant is believed to have "immigrant intent." It is the applicant's responsibility to show that they have intent to stay in the U.S. only to fulfill the purpose of their temporary stay as outlined in the invitation letter. An applicant unable to document non-immigrant intent will be denied the visa.

To demonstrate "non-immigrant intent" the applicant should prepare evidence showing strong ties to their home country, which can include documents that show:

- They have a job to return to.
- They own property.
- An itinerary for their visit.
- While you may be funding the actual visit, it is important to document that the visitor also has funds to support costs associated with their trip.
- Any other documentation showing they have good reason to return to their country.
- Evidence that the individual will have health insurance that will cover any unforeseen medical expenses during the stay in the U.S.

Applicants should also check the consulate's website for specific instructions: <http://www.usembassy.gov/>

The student or scholar should provide the applicant with:

- An invitation letter from you as the host, with an itinerary and estimated budget for the trip.
- Copies of your I-94, I-20 or DS-2019 immigration form and passport.
- Copies of a Georgia Tech transcripts (student) as evidence of current and past enrollment OR letter of invitation/employment (scholar).
- If family or friends are coming for graduation or another Institute event, include printed information about the event from the official website or other source of detailed information about the event

For more information on visa denials and immigrant intent visit:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/general/denials.html>

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Sample Letter of Invitation

Letter heading:

(Date)

Consular Officer
United States (Embassy or Consulate)
(City/Country)

Dear Consul

Items you may want to include in your letter of invitation:

- Your Visa status
 - Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia
 - Major and degree level
 - Identify attachments included. (*Itinerary, Georgia Tech transcripts or employment letter, Copies of the student/scholar's I-94, I-20 or DS-2019 and passport,*)
 - State the reason and date of the visit
 - Include the visitors name, date of birth, and their relationship to you
 - Where the visitors will stay during their visit
 - Include the anticipated cost and how the visitors will cover the costs of their stay
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Conclusion:

Thank you for your time and kind consideration of the attached visa application(s).

Sincerely,

(signature)

Students name – Printed