



Visitor Visa (B-2) for Family and Friends

Family and friends from abroad who wish to visit and/or attend ETSU international students' graduation ceremony may apply for a B-2 visa from the United States consulate nearest to the place of their residence. IPS advises that international students read the handout prepared by the U.S. Department of State on tips for Visitor Visas – Business and Pleasure (available at:

https://travel.state.gov/content/dam/visas/VisaFlyer_B1B2%20March%202015.pdf), and assist their guests by following the suggestions below. **IPS does not issue invitation letters to parents or guests of international students.**

Suggestions for improving chances of obtaining a visitor visa:

1. Write a separate letter of invitation for each visitor, including the following information:
 - Your name, SEVIS ID, current I-94 number, and your US address
 - The visitor's name, date of birth, place of birth, and nationality
 - An explanation of the purpose and length of their stay (example: to attend the graduation ceremony), state that the visit is temporary, and that the visitor will be returning home by the specified departure date
 - A description of what you provide during the visit (for example: room and board for a specific period of time, round trip airfare). Be sure to attach tuition receipts, bank statements, or other documents to verify that you have the means to provide such support.
 - Evidence of your status in the US, provide your guests a copy of your I-20, an unofficial transcript printed from GOLDLINK or a copy of your course schedule, print a copy of your Degree Works worksheets via GOLDLINK, and proof of relationship to your guests (if they are family member/s).
2. Provide an Enrollment Certificate from ETSU. Instructions for accessing your own Enrollment letter can be found at <http://www.etsu.edu/reg/faq.php#EnrollmentLTR>.
3. The U.S. Department of State provides information on the visitor visa application process at: <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/visit/visitor.html>. If your guest is not fluent in English, you may translate the information or recommend that they contact the nearest U.S. consulate to request a translated version before applying for the visa. They should read the information before submitting their application for the visa.
4. Your guests may be denied visas if they cannot prove to the consular officer's satisfaction that they will return to their home country immediately after their temporary visit. The following are examples of documents which may demonstrate strong bonds to their home country:
 - An employer's letter describing the employee's position, annual salary, company permission for the trip, and the expected return date to employment
 - Evidence of funding, if your guest/s intend to cover their own expenses. For example, a bank statement, employment verification, or other funding document
 - Evidence of substantial property and investments in their home country
 - Records of other trips abroad and return
 - Birth certificate to prove familial relationship with you

Please be aware that your family and friends may be denied a B-2 visa if they have relatives who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents. For further immigration advice, please consult with a licensed immigration attorney. Disclaimer: The materials in this handout have been prepared for general informational purposes only. They **do not** constitute legal advice or serve as a substitute for legal counsel.