

# *Inviting Relatives*

## *B-2 Tourist Visa*

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If you would like to invite relatives from abroad to visit you and/or attend your graduation ceremony on a B-2 tourist visa, you may find the following information helpful.

### **To improve the chances of your relative obtaining a tourist visa, you may:**

1. Write a letter of purpose for each person and include the following information:
  - 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)
  - A description of what you will provide during the visit (for example: room and board for a specific period of time, round trip airfare). Be sure to attach bank statements and other documents to verify that you have the means to provide such support.
2. Provide your relative with a copy of your enrollment certification and/or graduation certification. Request these documents from AU Central via email at [aucentral@american.edu](mailto:aucentral@american.edu) using your AU email account. Include in your request to have the certifications done in AU's letterhead and stamped. AU Central will process your request within 24-72 hours.

### **Visa Denials:**

Your relative may be denied a tourist visa if they cannot prove that they will return to their home country immediately after their visit to the US. They may be at a higher risk of denial of a tourist visa if they have relatives who are US citizens or permanent residents. The following documents may help demonstrate strong ties 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 substantial property and investments in their home country
- Records of previous trips abroad
- Birth certificate

Additional information on required documentation for the visa interview and the visa application process is available at: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/tourism-visit/visitor.html>.

***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.*



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