

INVITATION LETTERS for FAMILY & FRIENDS

Are you inviting family or friends to visit you in the United States?

The U.S Department of State Consular Affairs Division indicates that the invitation letter should come from you (the inviter). Support letters from the institution are not considered. We therefore recommend writing a personal letter to invite a friend or family member to visit you in the United States for up to six months. This may be taken to the visa interview as a supporting document. You can make two versions of the letter, one in your own language, and one in English. If more than one friend or relative will be visiting at the same time, it is okay to write one for each visitor.

Your invitation letter can include, but is not limited to the following:

- Your own name and immigration status in the United States
- Your degree level at California State University, Long Beach
- Name and date of birth of the visitor
- Your relationship with the visitor (parent, sibling, friend, etc.)
- Reason for the visit (to attend graduation ceremony, birth of a child, tourism, etc.)
- Approximate arrival and departure dates of the visitor
- State that the visit is temporary, and that the visitor will be returning home by the specified departure
- date. The visitor should also be prepared to provide evidence of his or her intention to return home,
- such as proof of continuing employment, proof of property ownership, or evidence of any other
- compelling reasons for needing to return home.

You may also wish to provide your visitor with the copies of your:

- I-94 card
- I-20
- Unofficial Transcript or Enrollment Verification Letter

California State University, Long Beach does not write invitation letters for any student, family member, friend, etc. as the U.S. Department of State has specifically stated that these letters from the university do not help facilitate visa approval. For further questions, please visit or call the Center for International Education.

Center for International Education

International Students and Scholar Services

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