

INVITING FAMILY MEMBERS FOR A VISIT TO THE USA

At least one time during your stay at Berkeley, you may want to invite a family member to visit you. The following provides some suggestions to help your family obtain a visa to enter the U.S.

Spouses and children under age 21 can and should use your I-20 to obtain an F-2 dependent visa at an American consulate. All other “family members” (mother, father, etc.) will need to apply for a **visitor’s visa** (B-2) at an American consulate or embassy in any country.

To facilitate the process you should do the following:

1. **Write a letter of invitation.** Include the purpose of the visit, your relationship to the individual, a statement of your status here and the length of time they will be visiting (usually less than three months). It is also good to mention that the individual has a job to which they plan to return. If you plan to provide for their support while they are here, include that information as well.
2. **Obtain a Letter of Verification.** You can request a letter from the Registrar explaining that you are in good standing and verifying any funding being provided by PSR and that you intend to return to your home country at the end of your studies.
3. **Request a financial statement from your bank.**

Send all of these materials to your family member or members who are applying for a visitor’s visa. Providing your family members with all of the above papers may improve their chances of obtaining a visa. However, **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 U.S.

If you have done all of the above and the family member is still having trouble getting a visa, come to the CISS for a consultation.

