

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 (B) 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, including documents that show:

- They have a job to return to.
- They own property.
- An itinerary for their visit.
- They have the funds to finance the trip.
- Any other documentation showing they have good reason to return to their country.

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

The student should provide the applicant with:

- An invitation letter, produced by the student, with an itinerary for the trip.
 - Copies of the student's I-94, I-20 or DS-2019 and passport.
 - Copies of the student's official Georgia Tech transcripts.
 - If family or friends are coming for the student's graduation, a copy of the student's Graduation Application Summary, available through OSCAR.
 - Proof of current enrollment. This document can be requested from the Registrar's office using the form from the following link: <http://www.registrar.gatech.edu/docs/pdf/certofenrollment.pdf>
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For more information on visa denials and immigrant intent visit:

http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/denials/denials_1361.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. (*Certification of Enrollment, Itinerary, Graduation Application Summary, Georgia Tech transcripts, Copies of the student/scholar's I-94, I-20 or DS-2019 and passport, Proof of current enrollment*)
 - 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 be financially covering 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