

Visitor Visa (B-2) for Family and Friends

Family and friends from abroad who wish to visit and/or attend JHU international students' graduation ceremony may apply for a B-2 visa from the United States consulate nearest to the place of their residence. OIS advises that you read the handout prepared by the U.S. Department of State on tips for Visitor Visas – Business and Pleasure (https://travel.state.gov/content/dam/visas/VisaFlyer_B1B2%20March%202015.pdf), and assist their guests by following the suggestions below.

***** The OIS does not issue invitation letters to family or guests of international students *****

Suggestions for improving the chances of obtaining a visitor visa:

Write a separate letter of invitation for each visitor, including 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)

Provide evidence of your status in the US, such as a copy of your I-20, an unofficial transcript printed from SIS or a copy of your course schedule, or your I-94

Provide verification of your enrollment, available through the National Student Clearinghouse.

- Log in to SIS (<https://sis.jhu.edu/sswf/>)
- At the top left select "Registration", then "Enrollment Verification"
- Click the blue link at the bottom that will lead you to the National Student Clearinghouse.
- At the first bullet, select "Current enrollment" for a verification on the current semester only. Select "All enrollment" for a verification of all of your enrollment at Johns Hopkins.
- Click "Obtain an enrollment certificate". Save the document to view and/or print.

If you need the names of your invited guests to be included in the Enrollment Verification, you can request a letter from the registrar's office by emailing them at ASENverify@jhu.edu.

Give your visitors the U.S. Department of State information on the visitor visa application process available at:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/tourism-visit/visitor.html> on B-2 visas to the visitor. 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.

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 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 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.