



Inviting Family Members and Friends to the United States

International students may invite family members and friends to visit them during their studies in the United States under a visitor visa. Please note that extended family members are not eligible to come under an F-2 visa (F-2 visas are only available for the spouse and children of F-1 visa holders).

Please note that Westcliff University provides students with a formal Commencement Invitation for family and friends who are planning on visiting F-1 international students in the United States. The only invitation letter we can provide upon request is to include the event information in a letter format.

Nonetheless, please note that according to the U.S. Department of State's website, they have announced that an invitation letter is not a considering factor when determining the qualifications for a tourist visa.

"Visa applicants must qualify on the basis of the applicant's residence and ties abroad, rather than assurances from U.S. family and friends. A letter of invitation or Affidavit of Support is not needed to apply for a nonimmigrant tourist visa. If you do choose to bring a letter of invitation or Affidavit of Support to your interview, please remember that it is not one of the factors that we use in determining whether to issue or deny a nonimmigrant tourist visa (travel.state.gov)."

Westcliff University encourages F-1 students to write a personal invitation letter. Please see an invitation letter template in the next page.

In addition, F-1 students can gather the following supporting documents for the visitor to take to the U.S. Embassy or Consular Office for their visa interview:

- F-1 Enrollment Verification Letter from Westcliff University (the request form is attached)
- Proof of financial support for your visitor during their stay in the United States: Affidavit of Support and a bank Statement (including current balance and history)
- Proof of strong ties to the home country showing intent to return back home

Please be advised that B-2 visa applicants are frequently denied due to lack of evidence showing strong ties to their home country. It is recommended that they prove that their stay will be temporary and their ties are strong enough to bring the applicant back to their home country.

To learn more about applying for a B-2 visitor visa,
<https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/visit/visitor.html>



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Personal Invitation Letter Template

[Date]

[Student Name]

[Address]

[Phone Number]

U.S. [Consulate or Embassy]

[U.S. Consulate/Embassy Address]

Dear Consular Officer,

My name is [Student name on passport]. I am a student under F-1 visa status at Westcliff University with SEVIS No. [SEVIS #]. I am currently enrolled in the [Program of Study]. I will be graduating on [Program end date on your I-20 form]. Please see attached for an Enrollment Verification Letter from Westcliff University confirming my enrollment and graduation date.

I am writing this letter to confirm that I am inviting my [family and/or friends] for [a temporary visit to the United States OR to attend my commencement ceremony on (date)].

Please see information of my guest(s) below:

- Last Name, First Name (as in passport), citizen of country, relationship to you

Please note that my guest(s) will be arriving to the U.S. on [date] and departing on [date].

Thank you in advance for the consideration of this Visitor Visa application.

Best Regards,

[Student Signature]

[Student Name as in passport]



Office Use Only:

Date Received: _____

Date Completed: _____

Request Form for Enrollment Verification Letter

Last Name: _____ Given Name: _____

SEVIS No# _____ Student ID# _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip Code: _____

DOB _____ Phone Number: _____

Program start date (as reflected on your I-20): _____

Program Level: BA Ed BBA MA TESOL MBA DBA

*If your U.S. Contact information has changed, we will need to update this information on your SEVIS I-20 record.

Please be sure to update your information through this link: http://www.westcliff.edu/wu_contactupdate/

Reason for Enrollment Verification Letter:

By signing this form, I am confirming that the U.S. contact information that I have provided is true. I have updated the contact update link to update my SEVIS I-20 record.

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____