

INVITING FRIENDS & FAMILY TO THE U.S.

If your family/friends wish to visit you in the U.S., they may need to apply for a visitor visa. In preparation for their visa application and interview, your family/friends will need to prove:

1. **WHY** they are coming to the U.S.,
2. **WHAT** they will be doing here
3. **WHERE** they are going in the U.S.
4. **WHEN** they will be in the U.S.
5. **WHEN** they will return to their home country
6. **HOW** they will support themselves while they are in the U.S.

If your family/friends need a visitor visa, they need to thoroughly read the instructions for visitor visa applications which can be found on the website of the U.S. embassy/consulate where they will apply for the visa. This is a personal application in which applicants must demonstrate their eligibility through a visa interview.

TIPS FOR VISITOR VISA APPLICATIONS

Invitation Letter:

- You are responsible in creating your own invitation letter for your friends & family.
- Your family/friends may bring a letter **from you** explaining who you are and what you are doing in the U.S. and that you want to invite them to visit for your graduation (and/or vacation, tour, etc.).
- Your letter should list the dates and locations that your family/friends will visit in the U.S.
- You should be as specific as possible. Include your name, date of birth, SEVIS ID# (if applicable) and address in the U.S.
- See **next page** of this document for a sample invitation letter.

Additional (optional) Documentation:

- Most recent I-20
 - If you do not have a copy, you can request through [ISGSS website](#) under the Forms for International Students.
- Most recent [I-94](#)
- Copy of your passport and visa
- Proof of graduation (if inviting friends and family for graduation)
 - MyLewis Portal > Degree Works (you can print this out as proof)
 - More info for graduation can be found [here](#)
- Official school transcript – [order here](#)

SAMPLE INVITATION LETTER FOR YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

(Replace the items in brackets with your specific information)

[Date]

U.S. [Consulate or Embassy] [City, Country location of U.S. Consulate or Embassy]

Dear Consular Officer:

I, **[name as it is on your passport and I-20]**, a citizen of **[country of citizenship]**, am currently a **[graduate/ undergraduate student]** at Lewis University, Romeoville Illinois, in lawful **[F-1 or J-1]** status. My SEVIS ID number is **[enter the SEVIS number found on the top right of your most recent I-20]**.

I would like to invite my **[relationship]**, **[full name on passport]**, a citizen of **[country of citizenship]**, to visit me in Illinois. The purpose of the visit is to **[state the purpose of the trip]** for the period from **[date]** to **[date]**. During **[his/her]** visit, **[he/she]** will stay at the address indicated below:

HOST (STUDENT) INFORMATION:

Full name:
Date of birth:
SEVIS ID #:
Current US address:

VISITOR INFORMATION:

Full name:	
Date of birth:	Passport #:
Current home country address:	
Address during the US visit:	

[Visitor name] also prepared all other required documents for your review and they are enclosed in **[his/her]** application.

Should you have any questions regarding my academic status at Lewis University, please feel free to contact me by phone at **[your phone # in the U.S.]** or by email at **[your Lewis email address]**. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

[Your signature]
[Your name]