

B-2 Tourist Visa for Inviting Family and Friends

Many students would like to invite friends or family for a short visit to the United States. The B-2 tourist visa is a good choice for visits of less than six months duration, or for family members who do not qualify for F-2 or J-2 dependent documents (such as parents, siblings, cousins, etc.). As a student, you can provide supporting documents for the B-2 visa application. Those documents are listed below. This is not a comprehensive list of all documents required for the B-2 visa. Further information about B-2 visa applications can be found by linking to U.S. Embassies and Consulates at <http://travel.state.gov/links.html>

Supporting Documents You Can Provide for B-2 Tourist Visa Applications:

Letter of Invitation

You must write a letter of invitation to support your family/friend's B-2 visa application. The letter should be written in English and contain the following information:

- Names and relationship to you of the visitor(s)
- Estimated length of stay in the United States
- You are a student at Eastern Illinois University
- The expected completion date of your studies

Form I-134 (Affidavit of Support)

The I-134 is recommended if you will provide any financial support and/or room and board to your visitor(s). You must sign the I-134 in the presence of a Notary Public.

General Certificate

Available by request from the Office of International Programs, the general certificate is a letter that verifies your student status and requests favorable consideration of the B-2 visa application.

Additional Information

Visitors in B-2 tourist status generally cannot change nonimmigrant status in the United States. B-2 tourists may not enroll in classes at Eastern Illinois University. Those who wish to pursue an activity other than tourism should secure the appropriate visa to enter the U.S.

In some instances, an extension of stay may be granted by the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services. Applications for extension of stay are made using Form I-539.

Form I-539 and Form I-134 can be downloaded from the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services' website at <http://uscis.gov/graphics/formsfee/index.htm>