

Inviting friends and family members to visit the United States

OIE does not issue letters requesting consulates to issue visitor (B) visas for friends or family members to come to the U.S. 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 do not have immigrant intent, that is, they do not want to remain in the U.S. If the applicant is not able to show this, the consular officer will deny the visa.

The applicant should attempt to prove they do not have “immigrant intent” by producing documents showing:

- 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 with an itinerary for the trip.
- Copies of their I-94, I-20 and passport.
- Copies of their transcripts.
- If family or friends are coming for the student’s graduation, a copy of their degree petition.
- 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>

NOTE: OIE and Georgia Tech has little to no influence on a consular officer’s decision to issue or deny a visa.

For more information on visa denials and immigrant intent visit:

http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi_denials.html