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INVITING FAMILY MEMBERS TO THE U.S.A.

International students and scholars often invite family members (mother, father, uncle, aunt, etc.) to visit them in the United States. Dependent family members (spouse and children) should apply for F-2, J-2 or H-4 status. Other family members must enter the U.S. on a Visitor Visa or under the Visa Waiver Program. The "visitor" visa is a nonimmigrant visa for persons wanting to enter the United States temporarily for business (B-1), for pleasure (B-2), or combination of both (B-1/B-2) purposes. For additional information, visit the U.S. Department of State website http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1262.html.

Some international students and scholars choose to provide additional documents. Providing your family members with these documents may improve their chances of obtaining a visa; however, there is no guarantee a visa will be issued. The success of the applicant's request for a visa lies in their ability to prove that they have no intention of staying permanently in the United States; therefore, they must provide proof of a close connection to their home country.

If you choose to provide documents, below is a list of recommended documents:

1. **Write a Letter of Invitation** - Include the purpose of the visit, your relationship to the individual, a statement of your status in the U.S. and the length of time they will be visiting. You may want to mention that the individual has a home, job and/or business to which they plan to return. If you plan to provide for their support while they are here, include financial information (see sample letter).

2. **Obtain a Letter of Verifying your Enrollment or Employment Status at UCI:**

Students can request a letter verifying enrollment from the Office of the Registrar's.

Scholars can request an employment verification letter from the Academic Department, verifying your employment, including dates of employment, title, and salary.

3. **Financial Statement from your bank** - If you plan to provide financial assistance to your family members while in the U.S. and if you are not being paid a salary, request a financial statement from your bank.

Please flip the back side of this form to see a sample of a preview letter.

SAMPLE

Sample Letter of Invitation

Date _____

I, the undersigned, would like to invite _____

for a temporary stay in the U.S. for the period beginning _____ to _____

The purpose of the visit is _____

Host (Student/Scholar) Information:

Name _____

Current Address _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____

Passport Number _____ Valid until _____

Current Immigration Status _____ Date of Initial Entry to the US _____

Relationship to guest _____

Visitor Information:

Name: _____

Current Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Passport Number: _____ Valid Until: _____

Occupation in Home Country: _____

Name and Address of Employer: _____

Source of Funding During Stay in U.S.: _____

Print Name of Host

Signature of the Host