Inviting Relatives or Friends to Visit You in the U.S.

John Jay College of Criminal Justice does not issue invitation letters for students' family members and/or friends. According to guidance from the U.S. Department of State, such a letter is neither necessary nor useful for the application for a B-1/B-2 Visitor's visa. B-1 is the classification for a Visitor for business, and B-2 for a Visitor for pleasure.

For general information on qualifying and applying for a visitor visa, go to the Department of State's information website at http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english.html. Specific instructions on documentation requirements for the B-1/B-2 visa application at the embassy or consulate where your relatives will apply can be found at http://www.usembassy.gov/.

Writing an Invitation Letter - You may write a letter for your relatives inviting them to visit you. Include your family member's name, birth date, relationship to you, passport number, the purpose and length of time of the visit, and whether you will provide for their room and board during their visit. If the invitation is to the graduation ceremony, you should also include the date and place of the graduation ceremony. The commencement ceremony this year will take place on June 3, 2015 at the Theatre at Madison Square Garden in New York, NY. Information about Commencement can be downloaded from http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/graduation

Enrollment Verification - Official documentation to confirm your enrollment can be obtained at Jay Express. You may request an Enrollment Verification letter and/or an unofficial transcript.

Additional Documentation - If you are providing your visitor(s) a place to stay and meals, it is best if you can document this with a lease or room contract and your bank statements from the last 2 - 3 months. If you are not providing this support, your visitor(s) will need to provide evidence of their own financial resources for the visit. F-1 students can contact Ms. Elaine Thompson at elthompson@jjay.cuny.edu for verification of their immigration status and J-1 exchange visitors can contact the International Studies & Programs Office by emailing Ms. Sandrine Dikambi at sdikambi@jjay.cuny.edu for a letter verifying their immigration status while at John Jay.

International Students on an F-1 or J-1 visa should also include a copy of an I-20 or DS-2019 and I-94 card as evidence of your immigration status in the U.S. Permanent residents and citizens can simply mention their immigration status in the above mentioned letter, but proof is not required.

U.S. immigration law requires an applicant for a visa to overcome "the presumption of immigrant intent". This means that the individual should demonstrate that they have strong ties to their home country such as employment, property, and family and have no intention of staying permanently in the United States. John Jay cannot assist students in certifying that their family and friends intend to return to their home country so this burden of proof is on the visa applicants.