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
  o If you do not have a copy, you can request through ISGSS website under the Forms for International Students.
• Most recent J-94
• Copy of your passport and visa
• Proof of graduation (if inviting friends and family for graduation)
  o MyLewis Portal > Degree Works (you can print this out as proof)
  o 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full name:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of birth:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEVIS ID #:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current US address:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VISITOR INFORMATION:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full name:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date of birth:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passport #:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current home country address:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address during the US visit:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[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]