

INVITATION OF DEPENDENTS

Individuals holding F-1 and J-1 visas who would like to invite their spouse and/or child(ren) to join them in the US should meet with an ISSO advisor. The advisor will discuss your case with you and provide you with documents necessary for your dependents to obtain the appropriate F-2 or J-2 visa at a US Consulate/Embassy outside of the US. Please note that if your J-1 DS-2019 was not issued by Brandeis University, you must contact the agency which issued your document to obtain the correct paperwork to invite your dependents to the US.

Note: A “dependent” is defined as the spouse and/or unmarried child (under the age of 21) of the primary F-1 or J-1 visa holder. Children born in the US, or spouses or children who are US permanent residents or US citizens, are not considered “dependents” for immigration purposes.

When you meet with the ISSO advisor, please have the following documentation with you:

1. Your original passport(s), I-94 card(s) and all I-20/DS-2019 or IAP-66 documents for you and any dependents already in F-2 or J-2 status. – Do not bring photocopies.
2. A photocopy of your spouse and/or child(ren)’s passport and any previously issued immigration documents (if applicable) for the individual(s) you are wanting to invite to join you in the US.
3. Current financial supporting documents (less than 6 months old) – i.e. assistantship/fellowship letter, original bank letter etc. Funding amounts can be obtained by contacting ISSO.
4. Completed Invitation Form (on page 3 & 4 of this handout).
5. Department Letter (strongly recommended for students who have been in their academic program for one academic year or more.) This letter should be written by your academic advisor on department letterhead and should state that you are in good academic standing, are meeting departmental expectations, and should include your projected date of graduation/program completion.
6. J-1 visa holders must complete and sign the J-1 Health Insurance Agreement form.

After meeting with the ISSO advisor, you will be issued a new I-20/DS-2019 for yourself (reflecting the addition of your dependents) as well as an additional I-20 or DS-2019 for each dependent that you will invite to the US. These new documents should be used with 90 days of being issued. If your dependent has not used these documents to obtain a visa within 90 days, please return these documents to the ISSO so that they may be updated.

Upon receiving the new visa documents from the ISSO advisor, the dependent must schedule a visa appointment to obtain the appropriate entry visa. Dependents of F-1 visa holders will obtain a Form I-20 and apply for an F-2 visa. Dependents of J-1 visa holders will obtain a Form DS-2019 and will apply for a J-2 visa.

The following documents should be presented to the US Consulate/Embassy at the visa appointment:

1. Valid passport
2. Marriage license (for spouses) or birth certificate (for children) – should be translated into English.
3. Form I-20 or DS-2019 (as provided by ISSO)
4. Original financial supporting documentation

Please note that US Consular or Port-of-Entry officials may request additional documentation not mentioned above. You may wish to visit the website for the Embassy/Consular post that your dependent will visit for his/her appointment to obtain specific requirements for citizens of your country.

Here are some additional documents that may be required in certain countries:

1. Student's personal income tax returns (Form 1040 or 1040NR or NREZ etc.) for each year while in the US.
2. Copies of W-2 tax forms
3. Proof of health insurance in the US for dependents
4. Transcript or Enrollment Letter (obtained from the Registrar)
5. Copy of F-1/J-1's passport pages (visa pages, passport validity page, photo page and pages showing all port-of-entry stamps). Also copies of all F-1/J-1's I-20s, DS-2019s or IAP-66s.

Once your dependent enters the U.S., please have them check-in at the ISSO. Bring original I-20(s)/DS-2019(s) and I-94 cards and passport(s). It is important that we verify that your dependents were processed correctly at the port-of-entry so that we can help you to correct any errors that may have been made. ISSO is happy to answer any questions you or your dependents may have about the F-2/J-2 visa status.

F-2 Dependent Information:

F-2 visa holders *cannot* work or receive compensation for services such as baby-sitting, tutoring, etc. F-2 dependents may attend non-degree avocational or recreational courses only, on a part-time basis – these courses cannot be used in a degree program. F-2s wishing to pursue higher education at the college/university level must obtain an F-1 or J-1 visa.

J-2 Dependent Information:

J-2 visa holders *may* work with **prior** authorization from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Please contact ISSO for questions about J-2 work authorization. J-2s should not begin any work before obtaining DHS authorization as this will jeopardize their legal status. Current Department of State regulations allow J-2 dependents to pursue a degree part-time or full-time at the college/university level however, we strongly suggest that individuals wanting to pursue a degree program full-time apply for an F-1 or J-1 visa as these regulations could change in the future.

F-2 and J-2 Dependent Children:

Each child must attend school beginning in September of the calendar year in which he or she attains the age of six and must continue schooling until the age of 16. Information on schooling is available on the Massachusetts Department of Education website: www.doe.mass.edu. F-2 and J-2 children must change visa status before their 21st birthday or before marriage (whichever is sooner).

A Note About Health Insurance Coverage:

Medical services in the US are expensive and a trip to the emergency room or hospitalization can result in large bills for those without adequate health insurance coverage. As a reminder, all J-2 dependents must maintain adequate health insurance coverage while in the US as defined by the regulations governing the J Exchange Visitor Program. Although F-2 dependents are not required by the US federal government to obtain health insurance, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts does require all individuals residing in Massachusetts to obtain adequate health insurance. If your dependent family members do not have sufficient medical insurance coverage from their home country that extends to the US they will need to purchase appropriate insurance to cover them while they are residing in Massachusetts. Short-term insurance plans can be purchased in a variety of plan lengths specifically for visiting the US. The ISSO has additional information and resources regarding health insurance for dependents. Please contact our office if you have additional questions.

The ISSO staff welcomes your family to Brandeis. We are happy to address any concerns that you or your family may have regarding your arrival and settling in as well as questions regarding your family's visa status. Please feel free to contact us at isso@brandeis.edu with any questions.

INVITATION FORM FOR F-2/J-2 DEPENDENTS

The purpose of this form is to request ISSO to issue you a new Form I-20 or Form DS-2019 for your spouse or child to apply for a dependent visa in order to be able to join you in the United States. Please complete the following information for each person you are inviting.

YOUR NAME: _____

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Please provide the following information about your relative (use reverse side for additional family members):

NAME: _____
(family name) (first) (middle)

RELATIONSHIP TO YOU (Circle one): SPOUSE CHILD

GENDER (circle one): MALE FEMALE DATE OF BIRTH: _____
(month/day/year)

PLACE OF BIRTH: _____
(city) (country)

COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP: _____

COUNTRY OF LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENCE: _____

ANTICIPATED ARRIVAL DATE IN U.S.: _____
(month/year)

NOTE: It is recommended that the new visa document be presented at a U.S. Embassy/Consular office for the purpose of obtaining an F-2 or J-2 visa within 90 days of the date it was issued. If the new document has not been used within 90 days, you may return it to ISSO to obtain an updated document.

If you have any questions, please contact isso@brandeis.edu

(USE REVERSE FOR INVITING ADDITIONAL DEPENDENTS)

Additional Dependent:

NAME: _____
(family name) (first) (middle)

RELATIONSHIP TO YOU (Circle one): SPOUSE CHILD

GENDER (circle one): MALE FEMALE DATE OF BIRTH: _____
(month/day/year)

PLACE OF BIRTH: _____
(city) (country)

COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP: _____

COUNTRY OF LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENCE: _____

ANTICIPATED ARRIVAL DATE IN U.S.: _____
(month/year)

Additional Dependent:

NAME: _____
(family name) (first) (middle)

RELATIONSHIP TO YOU (Circle one): SPOUSE CHILD

GENDER (circle one): MALE FEMALE DATE OF BIRTH: _____
(month/day/year)

PLACE OF BIRTH: _____
(city) (country)

COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP: _____

COUNTRY OF LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENCE: _____

ANTICIPATED ARRIVAL DATE IN U.S.: _____
(month/year)