Invitation Request for F-2/J-2 Dependent

To apply for a dependent I-20 or DS-2019, you should apply online. Please upload the following documentation:

1. A photocopy of your spouse and/or child's passport for the individual(s) you are wanting to invite to join you in the U.S.
2. Current financial documents that are less than 6 months old (i.e. assistantship/fellowship letter, original bank letter etc.) Funding is $800 per month, or $9,600 per dependent.

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 vocational 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 the child reaches six years of age 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 on Health Insurance Coverage:
Medical services in the U.S. are expensive. 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 U.S. as defined by the regulations governing the J Exchange Visitor Program. Although F-2 dependents are not required by the U.S. 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 U.S., 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 U.S. 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.

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 and the dependent enter the U.S. within 90 days of the date it was issued. If the new document has not been used to obtain a visa and enter the U.S. within 90 days, you may return it to ISSO to obtain an updated document.