Inviting Relatives or Friends to Visit Canada

If your family or friends wish to visit you in Canada for your convocation or for a vacation, they will need to apply for a Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) or an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) to travel to Canada (unless otherwise exempted). Your family friends can see whether they require a TRV or an eTA by visiting the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada’s (IRCC) website: http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp.

If a TRV is required, your family/friends can apply at the Canadian Consulate, Embassy or High Commission responsible for their country of nationality or residence. They can find out where to apply for a TRV at https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/contact-ircc/offices/international-visa-offices.html. If an eTA is required, your family/friends can submit an application online by visiting https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/eta/apply.html.

If the family/friends you wish to invite require a TRV you may send the following documents to them. They can use these as supporting documents when applying for a TRV at the Canadian Consulate back home.

1. Photocopy of your passport

2. Documents confirming your status in Canada and at SFU
   a. If you are currently enrolled in school
      Photocopy of your study permit and a current SFU confirmation of enrollment (COE) letter. For instructions on how to generate a COE, visit: https://www.sfu.ca/students/records/confirmation-of-enrollment.html. Your study permit should be valid for the duration of the time that your family/friends intend to stay in Canada.

   Or

   b. If you have completed degree requirements
      Photocopy of your post-graduation work permit and/or study permit as well as an official letter from SFU which confirms the completion of your program requirements. At least one of your immigration documents should be valid for the duration of the time that your family/friends intend to stay in Canada.

3. Letter of invitation written by you
   Note: International Services for Students (ISS) does not provide letters of invitation; you must write the letter of invitation yourself. The following are guidelines taken from the IRCC website. For more information, refer to https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/letter-invitation.html.

   Some visa offices may require that your letter be notarized by a Notary Public. Please note that a letter of invitation does not guarantee that a visa will be issued. Visa officers assess the applicant to determine whether they meet the requirements of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA) and the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations (IRPR).

See next page for more information about writing an invitation letter
Your letter must include all of the following information:

**About the person being invited:**
- Complete name
- Date of birth
- The person’s address and telephone number
- Your relationship to the person being invited
- The purpose of the trip
- How long the person you are inviting intends to stay in Canada
- Details on accommodation and living expenses
- The date the person you are inviting intends to leave Canada

**About yourself:**
- Complete name
- Date of birth
- Address and telephone number in Canada
- Occupation
- Status in Canada (e.g. student, worker, permanent resident, Canadian citizen)*

*If you are a Canadian citizen or permanent resident inviting your parents/grandparents to apply for a Super Visa of up to 2 years’ duration, you must include additional information in this letter. Please see [https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/letter-invitation.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/letter-invitation.html) for full details.

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**Sample letter:**

The Canadian Embassy, Immigration Section  
19 Dongzhimenwai Dajie, Chao Yang District  
Beijing 100000, China (PRC)  

April 24, 2018

Dear Visa Officer,

Re: Letter of invitation for my parents (Xiao & Jie Wu)

I am writing this to support the Visitor Visa application of my parents. My father, Xiao Wu, (born Feb 5, 1957) lives at North Road, Laoxin 23rd block, Dunhua City, Jilin Province, China. My mother, Jie Wu, (born Oct 6, 1960) lives with him. Their home phone number is 342.355.3249.

They would like to visit me in Canada, as they haven’t seen me in 3 years. They intend to stay with me at my home for 2 weeks, from August 5th – 19th, 2018. Housing and food costs during their stay will be covered by me; they will cover all other costs for their trip.

I am currently an international student, studying at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, BC (copy of passport and study permit attached). My date of birth is August 14th, 1992. I live at 348 Frances Cres, Burnaby BC, V8J 2K3. My phone number is 778-732-2384 and my email address is 234239408039438@smail.com.

Thank you in advance for consideration of my parents’ application.

Yours truly,

Jialin Wu

Your parents/friends will have to provide proof of economic and social ties to their home country as part of their application. The stronger the ties to their home country, the greater the chance that they could successfully prove to an Immigration Officer that they will return to their home country after visiting Canada.

Economic ties include: Bank statements, proof of financial investments, letters of employment, proof of current studies, proof of business ownership, proof of property ownership, etc.

Social ties include: Evidence that family members back home depend on them for financial/social support and that they must return home after their visit in order to meet these social obligations.

Due to IRCC expanding the requirement for biometrics, your family members/friends may be required to appear in person to have their fingerprints and photograph (biometric information) taken at a biometric collection service point. For more information, please visit: [https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/campaigns/biometrics.html](https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/campaigns/biometrics.html)