



# Proving “Nonimmigrant Intent” for U.S. Visa Application Purposes

**If you have questions about this form please contact International Admissions at:**  
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## Purpose

The purpose of this document is to describe one of the most important application requirements you must satisfy – showing the U.S. Consular officer that you have “nonimmigrant intent.” Following the suggestions in this handout will strengthen your visa application. We recommend that you carefully prepare your visa application and thoroughly document your qualifications.

## U.S. Visa Policy

U.S. regulations require the Consular officer who considers your visa application to assume that you want to immigrate to or remain permanently in the U.S. In order to qualify for your Student Visa, you must prove that your visit to the U.S. will be temporary in nature and that you will return to your country after completion of your activities here. Consular officers call this “nonimmigrant intent.” You can prove your “nonimmigrant intent” by giving the Consular officer documents that indicate that you have strong ties to your country. The stronger your ties to your country; the more likely it is that the Consular officer will believe that you intend to return home.

## Assessing Your Situation

Below are some questions to help you decide if you should make a special effort to prove your “nonimmigrant intent”. The more questions to which you respond with the answer “yes”, the more important it will likely be for you to make a special effort to prove your intent to return home after your activities in the U.S.

- Is it difficult to obtain an F-1 or a J-1 visa in your country?
- Are a significant percentage of F-1 or J-1 visa applications denied by the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in your country?
- Are one or more members of your immediate family living in the U.S.?
- Are one or more members of your immediate family U.S. citizens or permanent residents?
- Is the financial sponsor for your activities at Boston University a friend or relative who lives in the U.S.?
- Will this be your first trip to the U.S.?
- Have you recently finished one activity in the U.S. and now want to begin a new activity?
- Have you ever been denied a U.S. visa?

If, based upon your answers to these questions, you believe you should make a special effort to prove that you intend to return home, the next sections of this handout offer some suggestions about documents you might take with you when applying for a visa.

## Financial Ties

To prove strong financial ties, you may not use any assets that will be needed to pay for your F-1 or J-1 activities. You will need to prove the availability of that financial support separately in order to meet the minimum requirements for the visa.

- Documents to Submit:**
- Copies of investment statements or certificates
  - A letter or financial statement from your bank or accountant

## Family Ties

If all members of your immediate family live in your country, the U.S. Consular officer may understand that you have strong family ties to that country. If you are the oldest child or only child in your family, the Consular officer may believe that you are more likely to return home because of that fact. If one or both of your parents are not in good health, this is another reason you might be expected to return home.

- Documents to Submit:**
- Copies of official documents proving family relationships and their residences
  - Letters from physicians explaining important medical conditions of your parents

## **Your Visa and Immigration History**

If you have visited other countries and returned to your country after those visits, you have demonstrated a pattern of behavior which may lead the U.S. Consular officer to believe that you will return home after your time in the U.S. The more trips you have made, the better your situation

**Documents to Submit:**

- Current and/or previous passport(s) containing entry and exit stamps from your country and other countries
- Other official documents indicating departure and return to your home country

## **Additional**

These are suggestions of documentation that may help strengthen your visa application. Your individual situation may possibly warrant other documentation as well. The International Admissions Office encourages you to refer to the handout entitled *Immigration Requirements for Entry to the United States (F-1 Students)* that was included with your Admission Packet.

The International Admissions Office at Boston University is pleased to help you with any additional questions or concerns regarding this process. Please feel free to contact us directly at:

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