

Estacion Hispana

Q&A with Attorney Marjorie Barrios

18 March 2025

Question from a client:

My cousin asked me for an invitation letter because she wants to come to the USA on a tourist visa, is this necessary?

Actually NO. The US Department of State states that an invitation letter is NOT needed to apply for a visitor visa. The most important factors that the Department of State will consider in granting a person a tourist visa are their ties to their home country. The Department of State wants to make sure anyone that is of working age doesn't come to the USA to work on a tourist visa, so they want to see proof of employment in the applicant's home country, money in the bank, and other solid ties to your home country such as owning a home, etc.

Of course, everyone's case is unique but according to the Department of State they don't deny or grant based on an invitation letter and most importantly, they tell us exactly what they will consider—ties to the applicant's home country.

The Department of State states the following on their website:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/tourism-visit/visitor.html/visa>

“Note: Visa applicants must qualify based on their ties abroad/to their home country, rather than assurances from U.S. family and friends. A letter of invitation or Affidavit of Support is not needed to apply for a visitor visa. If you choose to bring a letter of invitation or Affidavit of Support to your interview, please remember it is not one of the factors used in determining whether to issue or deny the visa.”
