

WILL I QUALIFY FOR A VISA?

In order to qualify for most categories of U.S. non-immigrant visas, you must be able to demonstrate to a U.S. Consular Officer that you have a permanent residence outside the United States that you do not intend to abandon. You may satisfy this requirement by showing you have strong economic, familial and social ties to Canada. "Ties" are factors that would require you to return to Canada upon completion of your temporary visit to the United States. Even Landed Immigrants in Canada must prove their ties to Canada.

Many applicants ask what documents they can bring to their visa interview that would demonstrate sufficiently their "ties" to Canada and/or their home country. The answer to this question is that no single document will be relevant to every case. Applicants should ask themselves the following question: "If I were visiting the United States, what factors would cause me to end my visit and depart the United States?" Relevant factors, or ties, outside the U.S. could be such things as a job, ownership of property, dependent children, or other important responsibilities that require your presence in your home country. You must demonstrate to the Consular Officer that these ties are strong enough to compel you to return to your home country upon completion of your visit to the United States.

The following documents are useful to help establish ties:

If you are studying in Canada, you should bring:

- School attendance records including your most recent, comprehensive school transcript (your grades), a recently-issued registration letter from the school, proof of tuition payment for the current semester, letters of acceptance for current or future study
- If you are a teaching assistant or research assistant, please bring proof, including your pay slips.
- If you are on a scholarship of some kind, bring proof of this.
- If you are working part-time, a letter from your employer and five most recent pay slips
- A recent bank statement and statements from any investment or savings accounts in Canada

The following documents are generally NOT useful:

- Credit or debit cards
- Documents from other countries
- Letter of support from third parties
- Airline tickets
- Student ID cards