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2010 Diversity Visa Lottery

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The diversity immigrant visa lottery under the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1997 provides 50,000 immigrant visas each fiscal year to natives of countries from which immigration has been low over the preceding five years. Anyone who is selected under this lottery will be given the opportunity to apply for permanent residence. If permanent residence is granted, then the individual will be authorized to live and work permanently in the United States, as well as to bring his/her spouse and minor children to the United States. Foreign national employees should be made aware of this opportunity immediately, as **registration for the 2010 Visa Lottery begins on October 2, 2008, and ends on December 1, 2008**.

WHEN TO APPLY

The registration period for the 2010 visa lottery **opens at noon EDT on October 2, 2008 and ends at noon EST on December 1, 2008**. Individuals can apply electronically at the U.S. Department of State's web site at www.dvlottery.state.gov.

WHO CAN APPLY

The 2010 Visa lottery is open to natives of most countries, except the following "high admission" countries that are excluded this year: BRAZIL, CANADA, CHINA (mainland-born), COLOMBIA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, HAITI, INDIA, JAMAICA, MEXICO, PAKISTAN, PHILIPPINES, PERU, POLAND, SOUTH KOREA, UNITED KINGDOM (except Northern Ireland) and its dependent territories, and VIETNAM. Persons born in Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR, and Taiwan are eligible.

Note that for DV-2010, Russia has returned to the list of eligible countries. The Republic of Kosovo has also been added to the list of eligible countries. No countries have been removed from the list of eligible countries for DV-2010.

In most cases, to be a native of the country means to have been born in that country; however, there are limited circumstances when an otherwise ineligible person may claim eligibility through the native country of a spouse or a parent. For detailed instructions and to view the complete list of eligible and ineligible countries, please refer to the Department of State's web site at

<http://www.travel.state.gov/pdf/T1026V-DV-2010bulletin.pdf>.

The visa lottery also requires that applicants must possess either a high school education or its equivalent, or two years of experience in a qualified occupation

Please refer to the instructions to the 2010 Diversity Visa Lottery for guidance in determining the qualified occupations <http://www.travel.state.gov/pdf/T1026V-DV-2010bulletin.pdf> or the Department of State's web site at

http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_1319.html.

A successful applicant's spouse and unmarried children under the age of 21 are automatically entitled to the same status . Additionally, if otherwise eligible, a husband and wife may each submit a visa lottery application.

SELECTION

Applicants will be selected at random from all qualified entries. They will be notified by mail between May and July 2009 and will be provided further instructions. To actually receive a visa, the selected applicants must still meet all eligibility requirements under U.S. law.

NEW FOR 2010 VISA LOTTERY

For DV-2010, for the first time, those who submit entries may check the status of their entries online and determine whether they have been selected or not. Successful entrants will continue to receive notification letters by mail.

HOW TO APPLY

The only way to enter the DV-2010 lottery is by submitting Form DS 5501, the Electronic Diversity Visa Entry Form (E-DV Entry Form), which is accessible only at www.dvlottery.state.gov . Failure to complete the form in its entirety will disqualify the entry. Paper entries will not be accepted. This is a web-based application; applicants will not be able to download and save the form for later completion. DS 5501 must be filled out and submitted online.

Entries for the DV-2010 Diversity Visa Lottery must be submitted electronically between noon, Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) (GMT-4), Thursday, October 2, 2008, and noon, Eastern Standard Time (EST) (GMT-5) Monday, December 1, 2008.

Only one application may be submitted for each applicant. All entries by an individual will be disqualified if more than ONE entry for that individual is received, regardless of who submitted the entry. Applicants may prepare and submit their own entry or have someone submit the entry for them.

A successfully registered entry will result in the display of a confirmation screen containing the applicant's name and a unique confirmation number. Starting July 1, 2009, applicants will be able to check the status of their entries by returning to the web site and entering their unique confirmation number and personal information.

At the time of registration, the applicant must be prepared to submit an electronic file containing his or her digital photo image that conforms to specific parameters indicated in the instructions to the 2010 Diversity Visa Lottery at <http://www.travel.state.gov/pdf/T1026V-DV-2010bulletin.pdf> . It is very important that all required photographs be submitted. The entry will be disqualified if all required photographs are not submitted. Recent photographs of the following people must be submitted electronically with the Electronic Diversity Visa Entry Form: applicant, applicant's spouse, and each unmarried child under 21 years of age at the time of the electronic entry.

There is NO fee to enter the visa lottery program. The Department of State does not endorse, recommend, or sponsor any information or material from outside entities. The department alerts that there have been many web sites and e-mails masquerading as official diversity visa lottery facilitators, but the department continues to emphasize that registration is done through the official U.S. government web site at <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov/> , that there is no fee charged, and that the notifications of winning entries are sent by mail only.

What Happens After Submission of Application

The computer will select at random individuals from among all qualified entries. They will be notified by mail (not email) between May and July 2009 and will be provided further instructions. Those individuals NOT selected will NOT receive any notification. DV-2010 visas will be issued between October 1, 2009, and September 30, 2010. Processing of entries and issuance of diversity visas to successful individuals and their eligible family members MUST occur by midnight on September 30, 2010. Under no circumstances can diversity visas be issued or adjustments approved after this date.

COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE 2010 VISA LOTTERY PROGRAM can be found at the U.S. Department of State's web site at:

DV Program - overview

http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_1322.html

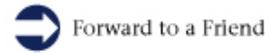
2010 Diversity Visa Lottery Instructions

<http://www.travel.state.gov/pdf/T1026V-DV-2010bulletin.pdf>

Occupations Requiring at Least Two Years of Training or Experience to Perform

http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_1319.html

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