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## Immigration eNews

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## 2009 Diversity Visa Lottery

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 2009 Visa Lottery begins on October 3, 2007.

### When to Apply

The registration period for the 2009 Visa Lottery opens at noon EDT on October 3, 2007, and ends at noon EST on December 2, 2007. The registration is done electronically at the U.S. Department of State's website at [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov). ([back](#))

### Who Can Apply

The 2009 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, Russia, 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.

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 website at <http://travel.state.gov/pdf/2009DVInstructions.pdf>.

The 2009 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 2009 Diversity Visa Lottery for the guidance for determining the qualified occupations <http://travel.state.gov/pdf/2009DVInstructions.pdf> or the Department of State's website at [http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types\\_1319.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_1319.html). ([back](#))

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. The selected applicants will be notified by mail between May and July 2008, and will be provided further instructions. In order to actually receive a visa, the selected applicants must still meet all eligibility requirements under U.S. law. ([back](#))

## How to Apply

The registration is done electronically at the U.S. Department of State's website at <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov>. Paper entries will not be accepted.

Only one application may be submitted for each applicant. Submission of more than one application will disqualify the applicant from registration.

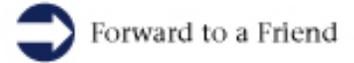
At the time of registration, the applicant must be prepared to submit an electronic file containing his or her digital photo image that conforms to specific parameters indicated in the instructions to the 2009 Visa Lottery at <http://travel.state.gov/pdf/2009DVInstructions.pdf>.

There is no fee to enter the 2009 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 websites and emails masquerading as official diversity visa lottery facilitators, but the Department continues to emphasize that the registration is done through the official U.S. government website at [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov), that there is no fee charged, and that the notification of winning entries are sent by mail only. ([back](#))

Complete instructions for the 2009 Visa Lottery can be found at the U.S. Department of State's website at:

- Diversity Visa Program - Overview [http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types\\_1322.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_1322.html)
- 2009 Diversity Visa Lottery Instructions <http://travel.state.gov/pdf/2009DVInstructions.pdf>

- Occupations Requiring at Least Two Years of Training or Experience to Perform [http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types\\_1319.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_1319.html)



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