



2013 Diversity Immigrant Visa Program (DV Lottery)

The U.S. Department of State (“DOS”) is accepting registration for the 2013 Diversity Visa Lottery. The lottery provides 50,000 immigrant visas for permanent residence to persons from countries with historically low rates of immigration to the U.S.

The State Department will be accepting applications for the next diversity lottery **from Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at 12 p.m. EDT until Saturday, November 5, 2011 at 12 p.m. EDT.** Individuals may submit only one application, which *must* be filed electronically at www.dvlottery.state.gov during this period. Paper entries will not be accepted. Applicants are strongly encouraged not to wait until the last week of the registration period to enter. Heavy demand may result in website delays. **No entries will be accepted after 12 p.m. EDT on November 5, 2011.**

There are no costs to register for the lottery. All applications must be accompanied by a passport-style digital photograph of the applicant, the applicant’s spouse and each unmarried child under the age of 21 (who is not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident). In order to qualify, an applicant must have EITHER a high school education or its equivalent OR two years of work experience within the past five years, in an occupation requiring at least two years of training or experience to perform. Each spouse in a family may submit a separate application that will cover both spouses and any dependent children.

The results of the lottery will be announced on a rolling basis starting May 1, 2012 online. Last year the State Department received approximately 14.7 million qualified entries, out of which only 100,021 applicants were selected. **Being selected in the diversity lottery does not guarantee permanent residence status.** Instead, selected applicants are merely eligible to *apply* for permanent residence if their assigned rank number becomes current. Even then, the selected applicant must complete an extensive application process and satisfy national security and criminal background checks. Because the number of individuals selected in the lottery far exceeds the number of actual permanent visas available, it is critical that selected applicants be prepared to act quickly upon accessing the government notification online. Applications that are not submitted and approved before the 50,000 limit is reached and before the end of the 2013 fiscal year (September 30, 2013) will be denied.

Individuals in F-1, J-1 or other strict nonimmigrant status who are selected in the lottery are advised to consult an immigration attorney *before* submitting a permanent residence application in order to assess any potential consequences to their nonimmigrant status.

The Diversity Visa Lottery Program was created to encourage people from countries with low immigration rates to immigrate to the U.S. Therefore, foreign nationals from countries with high levels of immigration to the United States are ineligible for the program. For the DV-2013 program, citizens from the following countries are *not* eligible to apply:

- Bangladesh
- Brazil
- Canada
- People's Republic of China*
- Colombia
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- India
- Mexico
- Pakistan
- Peru
- Philippines
- South Korea
- U.K. and its dependent territories
(except Northern Ireland)
- Vietnam

* Persons born in Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR, and Taiwan *are* eligible.