

DIVERSITY LOTTERY REGISTRATION PROGRAM
FOR 2014 - 2015 (DV-2015)
(October 1, 2013 to November 2, 2013)

Registration Period:

Entries for the DV-2015 diversity visa lottery must be submitted electronically between Tuesday, October 1, 2013 at 12:00 noon, Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) and Saturday, November 2, 2013 at 12:00 noon (EDT). Applicants may access the Electronic Diversity Visa Entry Forms at www.dvlottery.state.gov during the one-month registration period beginning October 1st. **Paper entries will not be accepted. Applicants are strongly encouraged to not wait until the last week of the registration period to enter. Heavy demand may result in delays. No entries will be accepted after Noon EDT on November 2, 2013.**

Persons not eligible:

Persons born in the following countries are **NOT** eligible in the Diversity Lottery: Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China (Mainland born), Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, South Korea, Vietnam, the United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland) and its dependent territories, and Vietnam.

Note: Persons born in Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR, and Taiwan are eligible to apply for the DV-2013 lottery.

For more information:

See the "Instructions for the 2015 Diversity Immigrant Visa Program (DV-2015)" at http://travel.state.gov/pdf/DV_2015_Instructions.pdf

To qualify, you must:

- (1) Be a native of a qualifying country. However, if you are born in an ineligible country but your spouse was born in an eligible country, you can claim your spouse's country of birth, provided both you and your spouse are issued visas and enter the U.S. simultaneously. Also, if you were born in an ineligible country, but neither of your parents were born or resided there at the time of the birth, you may be able to claim one of the parent's countries of birth.
- (2) You 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. (The U.S. Department of Labor's O*Net OnLine database will be used to determine qualifying work experience: <http://online.onetcenter.org>. Applicants will also find a link to a Labor Department list of qualifying occupations at the Consular Affairs website: <http://travel.state.gov>)

Application Information:

- There is no initial application fee. All entries will be disqualified if more than ONE entry is submitted, regardless of who submitted the entry. You may prepare and submit your own entry, or have someone submit the entry for you.

- The Department of State will only accept completed Electronic Diversity Visa Entry Forms (E-DV Entry Form) submitted electronically at <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov> during the one-month registration period beginning October 1, 2013.
- Successfully registered entries will result in the display of a confirmation screen containing your name, date of birth, country of chargeability, and a date/time stamp. You may print this confirmation screen for your records using the print function of your web browser.
- Paper entries will not be accepted.
- The entry will be disqualified if all required photos are not submitted. Recent photographs of you and your spouse and each child under 21 years of age, including all natural children as well as all legally-adopted and stepchildren (except a child who is already a U.S. citizen or a Legal Permanent Resident), even if a child no longer resides with you or is not intended to immigrate under the DV program, must be submitted electronically with the E-DV Entry Form. Group or family photos will not be accepted; there must be a separate photo for each family member.

You and your spouse and child will need a computer file containing a digital photo (image) which will be submitted on-line with the E-DV Entry Form. The image file can be produced either by taking a new digital photograph or by scanning a photographic print with a digital scanner.

If the submitted digital images do not conform to the following specifications, the system will automatically reject the E-DV Entry Form and notify you.

Photo Specification

The submitted image must adhere to the following specifications. Photographs submitted must be a recent photograph, taken within the last 6 months. Please be advised that **failure to comply with any of the following requirements may result in disqualification from the lottery.**

- The image must be in the Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG) format.
- The image must be in 24-bit color.
- The photograph must have a resolution of 600 pixels high by 600 pixels wide.
- If a photographic print is scanned, it must be scanned at a resolution of at least 150 dots per inch (dpi) and with a color depth of either 24-bit color.
- The maximum image size accepted will be 240 kilobytes (240 KB).

If the submitted digital images do not conform to the following specifications, the entry will be disqualified:

- You, your spouse, or child must be directly facing the camera; the head of the person being photographed should not be tilted up, down or to the side, and should cover about 50% of the area of the photo.
- The photo should be taken with the person being photographed in front of a neutral, light-colored background. Photos taken with very dark or patterned backgrounds will not be accepted.

- Photos in which the face of the person being photographed is not in focus will not be accepted.
- Photos in which the person being photographed is wearing sunglasses or other paraphernalia which detracts from the face will not be accepted.
- Photos of applicants wearing head coverings or hats are only acceptable due to religious beliefs, and even then, may not obscure any portion of the face of the applicant. Photos of applicants with tribal or other headgear not specifically religious in nature are not acceptable. Photos of military, airline or other personnel wearing hats will not be accepted.

The Entry

There is only one way to enter the DV-2015 lottery. You must submit an E-DV Entry Form, which is accessible only at <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov>. Failure to complete the form in its entirety will disqualify the entry. You will be asked to submit the following information on the E-DV Entry Form for each applicant:

1. FULL NAME – Last/Family Name, First Name, Middle name
2. DATE OF BIRTH – Day, Month, Year
3. GENDER – Male or Female
4. CITY/TOWN OF BIRTH
5. COUNTRY OF BIRTH – The name of the country should be that which is currently in use for the place where the applicant was born.
6. COUNTRY OF ELIGIBILITY IF YOUR NATIVE COUNTRY IS DIFFERENT FROM COUNTRY OF BIRTH – If you are claiming nativity in a country other than your place of birth, this information must be submitted on the entry. If you are claiming nativity through your spouse or parent, please indicate this on the entry.
7. APPLICANT PHOTOGRAPH – Please see Page 2 for information on photo specifications.
8. MAILING ADDRESS – Address, City/Town, District/ Country/ Province/ State, Postal Code/ Zip Code.
9. COUNTRY where you live.
10. PHONE NUMBER (optional)
11. E-MAIL ADDRESS (optional)
12. MARITAL STATUS – Unmarried, Married, Divorced, Widowed, Legally Separated.
13. NUMBER OF CHILDREN THAT ARE UNMARRIED AND UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE – Except children that are either U.S. Legal Permanent Residents or American citizens.
14. SPOUSE INFORMATION – Name, Date of Birth, Gender, City/Town of Birth, Country of Birth, Photograph
15. CHILDREN INFORMATION - Name, Date of Birth, Gender, City/Town of Birth, Country of Birth, Photograph

NOTE: Entries must include the name, date and place of birth of your spouse and all natural children, as well as all legally-adopted and stepchildren, who are unmarried and under the age of 21 (except those children who are already U.S. citizens or Legal Permanent Residents), even if you are no longer legally married to the child's parent, and even if the spouse or child does not

currently reside with you and/or will not immigrate with you. Note that married children and children 21 years or older will not qualify for the diversity visa. **Failure to list ALL children will result in your disqualification for the visa.**

Selection of Applicants

Applicants will be selected at random by computer from among all qualified entries. Starting May 1, 2014 through at least June 30, 2015, all DV-2015 applicants may check the *Entrant Status Check* through E-DV at www.dvlottery.state.gov to see if they have been selected. Applicants who have been selected will be directed to a confirmation page that will provide further instructions, including information about fees connected with immigration to the United States. **Persons not selected will NOT receive any notification.** The Department of State will not mail out notification letters or notify selectees by email. U.S. embassies and consulates will not provide a list of selectees. Individuals who have not been selected also will be notified **ONLY** through *Entrant Status Check*. You are strongly encouraged to access *Entrant Status Check* yourself and not to rely on someone else to check and inform you.

In order to actually receive a visa, applicants selected in the random drawing must meet **ALL** eligibility requirements under the United States law. Processing of entries and issuance of diversity visas to successful applicants and their eligible family members **MUST** occur by midnight on September 30, 2015. Under no circumstances can diversity visas be issued or adjustments approved after this date, nor can family members obtain diversity visas to follow to join the applicant in the U.S. after this date.

Our office feels that you should be able to complete the process on your own without attorney assistance. However, as an accommodation, if you would like to use our services to prepare and file the application, there will be a \$600.00 charge for this service.

The information in this article does not constitute legal advice. The law is constantly changing, and we make no warranty of the accuracy of the information.