

Registration for Fiscal Year 2009 (October 3, 2007 – December 2, 2007) DV-2009 Immigrant Visa Lottery

The U.S. Department of State has published the final regulations regarding the Diversity Immigrant Visa (green card) Lottery (DV-2009) program. The Immigration Act of 1990 established, beginning with the U.S. government's Fiscal Year 1995, the visa lottery program. The diversity visa program provides a maximum of 55,000 permanent visa numbers during each federal fiscal year to benefit "natives" of certain "low admission" countries. Applications for registration must be made **separately** each year during the application period and must **precisely** follow the regulations established by the United States Department of State for that fiscal year.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to participate in the DV-2009 lottery program, the alien (1) must be a "native" of any country in the world **except** the following fourteen countries: **Brazil, Canada, China (mainland-born are excluded, but natives of Hong Kong S.A.R. Macau SAR, and Taiwan are allowed to participate), Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Pakistan, The Philippines, Peru, Poland, Russia, South Korea, The United Kingdom, including dependent areas (natives of Northern Ireland are eligible to participate) and Vietnam;** and (2) must have a high school education or its equivalent, or have worked at least two years in an occupation that requires two years of training or experience.

"Native" is generally defined to reflect country of birth, not nationality, but there are four exceptions to the general "place of birth" rule: (1) if an alien's spouse was born in an included country, the alien may qualify as a native of that country as well, but only if the spousal relationship existed prior to the time of admission as a permanent resident; (2) a "child" (defined as those unmarried and under age 21) may qualify as a native of the country of which either parent is a native; (3) where an alien was born in a foreign state in which neither parent had a residence at the time of the alien's birth, the alien may qualify, in certain cases, as a native of either parent's country, even if he no longer qualifies as a child; and (4) an alien born in the U.S. but who does not possess U.S. citizenship may qualify as a native of his current country of citizenship, or, if stateless, current country of residence. **Note: An applicant claiming entitlement based on an exception to the general "place of birth" rule must include a statement to this effect on the application form and must note this country on the upper left corner of the envelope.**

APPLICATION

- Applications must be submitted electronically at www.dvlottery.state.gov/
- The registration period begins at Noon EDT on Wednesday October 3, 2007 and ends at Noon EDT on Sunday December 2, 2007.
- Paper entries will not be accepted.

- Only one application per person may be submitted. Submission of more than one application will disqualify the person from registration.
- Failure to provide all of the information listed will disqualify the applicant.
- There is no application fee.
- Once completed, a confirmation screen will appear showing the applicant's name, date of birth, country of chargeability and date/time stamp.
- The applicant should print the confirmation screen as a receipt for the application.
- Spouses may submit separate applications, but the application includes the applicant's spouse so long as the marriage takes place prior to the applicant's admission to the United States for permanent residence, and includes children, so long as the child is an issue of a marriage which takes place prior to the applicant's admission to the U.S. for permanent residence. Again, the definition of "child" is restricted to those unmarried and under age 21.
- Documentary proof of the required education or work experience is not required at the time of registration for the DV-2009 program, but will be required for successful registrants at a later date.
- Several questions and options for answers have been added to the application form the DV-2009 program. Applicants are now required to provide information such as the country where they currently live and their highest level of education achieved.

PROCESSING

- Successful applicants will be notified between May and July 2008 and will have between October 1, 2008 and September 30, 2009 to obtain their immigrant visa (green card). If the immigrant visa is not obtained prior to September 30, 2009, it will be abandoned. Diversity visas cannot be issued or adjustments approved after September 30, 2009, nor can family members obtain diversity visas to follow to join the applicant in the U.S. after this date.
- Random selection by the Kentucky consular computer as a selectee does not automatically guarantee that you will receive a visa.
- Persons not selected will **not** receive any notification.

For more details about the DV-2009 program, please call Jim Levine at (404) 527-4090 or Diane Soroko at (404) 527-4969.