

Department of State Announces the 2007 U.S. Visa Lottery

The U.S. Department of State will issue permanent residency visas to the winners of a lottery that opens for registration October 5. The program, known as the Diversity Visa Lottery, offers 50,000 permanent visas for immigrants to the United States.

Applications from would-be immigrants in eligible countries will be accepted from noon on Wednesday, October 5, 2005, through noon on Sunday, December 4, 2005. The program is formally known as the Diversity Visa Lottery because it offers visas to citizens of nations that have a traditionally low level of immigration to the United States. In so doing, it is designed to bring greater racial and ethnic diversity to the nation.

Natives of the following countries are not eligible to apply because they sent a total of more than 50,000 immigrants to the U.S. in the previous five years: CANADA, CHINA (mainland-born), COLOMBIA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, EL SALVADOR, HAITI, INDIA, JAMAICA, MEXICO, PAKISTAN, PHILIPPINES, 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.

Applications will only be accepted electronically through a specially designated Web site -- www.dvlottery.state.gov -- which will be activated when the application process begins. No paper applications will be accepted. For more information about the requirements of the program, the eligibility of applicants and the application process, visit the [U.S. Department of State](http://www.state.gov) website.