**The Diversity Immigrant Visa (DV) program, also called the U.S. green card lottery, is a government-run lottery to get a U.S. green card (permanent residence). Each year, the program offers up to 55,000 visas to people from countries with low immigration to the U.S. who meet basic education requirements.**

# Who Can Apply?

To be eligible, you, your spouse, or your parent must have been born in a country that sent less than 50,000 immigrants to the United States in the previous five years. The U.S. Department of State (DOS), which administers the program, publishes a

full list of eligible countries on its website each year.

Applicants must also prove that they have:

* at least a high school education or its equivalent; or
* two years of work experience within the past five years in an occupation that requires at least two years of training or experience.
	+ Instructions to determine if your job is eligible can be found on the [**DOS website**](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/diversity-visa-program-entry/diversity-visa-if-you-are-selected/diversity-visa-confirm-your-qualifications.html).

You can apply for the DV program in the United States or overseas.

# How Do I Apply?

To apply, you must submit your application online

at the DOS Electronic Diversity Visa (E-DV) website: [**https://dvprogram.state.gov**](https://dvprogram.state.gov/). Paper applications are not allowed. There is no fee to enter the DV program, but if you are selected and scheduled for an inter- view, you will need to pay a visa application fee.

# When Can I Apply?

Every year, there’s a specific time to apply, which is announced on the DOS website. The application pe- riod usually lasts a few weeks, from early October to early November. The entry form can only be submit- ted during this time. It’s best to apply early to avoid technical issues.

# How Will I Know If I Have Been Selected for the DV Program?

DOS randomly chooses people for the DV program each year using a computer lottery. You can check if you’ve been selected by using the confirmation

number you got when you applied. Go to the Entrant Status Check portal at [**https://dvprogram.state.gov/**](https://dvprogram.state.gov/ESC/)[**ESC/**](https://dvprogram.state.gov/ESC/), usually starting in early May. If you’re selected, you’ll need to take more steps, like submitting documents, getting a medical exam, and attending an interview.

DOS releases detailed instructions each year about the diversity visa lottery process: [**https://travel.**](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/diversity-visa-program-entry/diversity-visa-instructions.html)[**state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/**](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/diversity-visa-program-entry/diversity-visa-instructions.html)[**diversity-visa-program-entry/diversity-visa-**](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/diversity-visa-program-entry/diversity-visa-instructions.html)[**instructions.html**](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/diversity-visa-program-entry/diversity-visa-instructions.html)

We encourage you to contact our office at [NAME] at [NUMBER] if you have any questions.

**What Is the Diversity Visa Lottery?**

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