

# focus on

## Immigration

October 2001

### **DV-2003 Visa "Lottery" Program**

#### **Introduction**

The Diversity Visa program (DV-2003) makes permanent residence visas available to persons meeting the simple, but strict, eligibility requirements. This memorandum describes the eligibility requirements and application procedures for a DV-2003 immigrant visa. Recent changes to application procedures include requirements concerning (1) an applicant's signature, (2) family photographs, (3) definitions of qualifying work experience, and (4) addresses for submitting DV-2003 applications.

The visas are distributed among six geographic regions with a greater number of visas going to regions with lower rates of immigration. No visas are issued to citizens of countries sending more than 50,000 immigrants to the United States in the past five years. Within each region, no one country may receive more than seven percent of the available Diversity Visas in any one year.

There is no specific format for the entry, but all information requested must be provided or entries will be automatically disqualified. The mail-in period for the next Diversity Visa lottery will begin at noon on October 1, 2001 and continue through noon on October 31, 2001. Entries must be received at one of the Kentucky Consular Center mailing addresses during the mail-in period, and entries sent to the wrong address or received before or after this period will be disqualified regardless of when they are postmarked.

## Eligibility Requirements

### *Native of Qualifying Countries*

Under the DV-2003 program, visas are allocated among six geographic regions according to a statutory formula based on the total number of immigrants admitted to the United States over the most recent five-year period.

In most cases, to be considered a native of a qualifying country means the country in which the applicant was born. However, if a person was born in an ineligible country but his/her spouse was born in an eligible country, such person can claim the spouse's country of birth provided both the applicant and spouse are issued visas and enter the United States simultaneously. Furthermore, if a person was born in an ineligible country, but neither of his/her parents was born there or resided there at the time of the birth, such person may be able to claim nativity in one of the parents' country of birth.

The six geographic regions are:

- Africa - includes all countries on the African continent and adjacent islands;
- Asia - extends from Israel to the northern Pacific islands, and includes Indonesia;
- Europe - extends from Greenland to Russia, and includes all countries of the former USSR;
- North America - includes the Bahamas;
- Oceania - includes Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and all countries and islands of the South Pacific;
- South America, Central America, and the Caribbean - extends from Central America (Guatemala) and the Caribbean nations to Chile.

Persons born in "high admission" countries are, in most instances, not eligible for the program. "High admission" countries are defined as those from which the United States has received more than 50,000 immigrants during the last five years in the immediate relative, family, and employment preference categories.

For DV-2003, the "high admissions" countries are:

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| ● Canada                | ● Mexico                                       |
| ● China (mainland born) | ● Pakistan                                     |
| ● Colombia              | ● the Philippines                              |
| ● Dominican Republic    | ● South Korea                                  |
| ● El Salvador           | ● the United Kingdom and dependent territories |
| ● Haiti                 | ● Vietnam                                      |
| ● India                 |  |
| ● Jamaica               |  |

Persons born in Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR, Taiwan, and Northern Ireland are eligible to apply for the DV-2003 lottery.

### ***Educational Requirements***

In addition to the nativity requirement, DV-2003 applicants must have either (1) a high school education or its equivalent; (2) two years of work experience within the past five years in an occupation that requires at least two years of training or experience to perform.

As a new practice this year, the U.S. Department of Labor's O\*Net OnLine database will be used to determine the qualifications of occupational work experience:  
<http://www.onetcenter.org>.

### **Procedural Requirements for Submitting an Application**

There is no initial application fee or special application form to enter, however, only ONE entry per applicant is permitted. If more than one entry for any applicant is received, all entries for that applicant will be disqualified, regardless of who submitted the entry.<sup>1</sup> A person already registered for an immigrant visa in another category may apply for the DV-2003 program.

Each application must comply with the following specifications:

#### ***Signature***

*Each application must be personally signed by the applicant in his or her native alphabet. Signatures must be in the applicant's usual and customary signature using the native alphabet, as would appear on his/her passport or other official or contractual obligations. Initialed signature or block printing of the applicant's name will NOT be accepted and will result in disqualification of the entry.*

If an applicant chooses to sign his/her name in the Roman alphabet and that is not the native alphabet, he/she must also sign in his/her native alphabet. *The signature specifications are new for the DV-2003 lottery and must be complied with exactly as stated to avoid disqualification.*

#### ***Photos***

*All required photos must be attached to each application. Each application must include a recent photo of the applicant and his/her spouse and each child, including all natural children as well as all legally-adopted and stepchildren, even if the children no longer reside with the applicant. There must be a separate photo for each member and group or family photos are not accepted. The requirement of photos for all family members is new for the DV-2003 lottery and must be complied with exactly as stated to avoid disqualification.*

Photos must have the name and date of birth of each family member printed on the back of each photo. Photos should be attached with tape and not stapled to the entry, although if there is insufficient room on the front of the entry, applicants may tape photos to the back of the page.

Photos are to be 2 inches (50mm) square, with the applicant's, spouse's, or child's name and date of birth printed on the back. Each person photographed should directly face the camera, with head straight forward and covering approximately 50% of the area of the photo.

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1. Husbands and wives may each submit one application for registration and if either is registered, the other would then be entitled to derivative status. However, husbands and wives may not sign for each other as each applicant must sign his or her own entry.

If the photo is unclear or the face of the person photographed is not in focus or obscured in any way, the photos will not be accepted.

The background should be a neutral, light-colored background and photos taken with very dark or patterned, busy backgrounds will not be accepted. Photos may be either color or black and white.

### ***The Entry***

As there is no specific format for the entry, applications can be made using a plain sheet of paper with information typed or clearly printed in the English (Roman) alphabet.

The following specifications must be compiled with to ensure qualification:

- Applicant's full name  
(last name underlined, first name, middle name);
- Applicant's date and place of birth  
(day, month, year)  
(city/town, district/county/province, country);<sup>2</sup>
- Applicant's native country if different from country of birth (If claiming nativity in a country other than his/her place of birth, this must be clearly indicated on the entry. This information must match with what is put on the upper left corner of the entry envelope.<sup>3</sup> If applicant is claiming nativity through a spouse or parent, this must also be indicated on the entry. An example of a sufficient statement is: "I am claiming alternate state chargeability based on my [SPECIFY FAMILY MEMBER]'s birth in [SPECIFY QUALIFYING COUNTRY].");
- Name, date, and place of birth of applicant's spouse and all natural children, including all legally adopted and stepchildren, who are unmarried and under the age of 21 years. All qualifying children must be included even if they are not currently residing with the applicant, they will not immigrate with the application, or the applicant is no longer married to the child's parent;
- Applications current mailing address;
- Applicant's telephone number (optional);
- Photographs  
(see specifications above);
- Signature  
(see specifications above).

### **Submitting the Application**

Entries may be submitted by regular airmail to the address matching the region of the applicant's country of nativity. Entries sent by express or priority mail, second day airmail, fax, hand, messenger, or any means requiring special handling will not be processed.

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2. The name of the country should be that which is currently in use for the place where the applicant was born (Slovenia, rather than Yugoslavia; Kazakhstan rather than Soviet Union, for example).  
3. See envelope specifications below.

The mail-in period for the DV-2003 lottery visas to be issued during FY 2003 will be held between **noon on October 1, 2001 and noon on October 31, 2001**. Entries must be received during the mail-in period and at one of the Kentucky Consular Center mailing addresses. Entries sent to the wrong address or received before or after this period will be disqualified regardless of when they are postmarked.

### ***Envelope Specifications***

The envelope used to submit applications must be between 6 and 10 inches (15 to 25 cm) in length and 3 ½ inches and 4 ½ inches (9 to 11 cm) in width. In the upper left-hand corner of the envelope, the applicant must write his/her country of nativity followed by the applicant's name and full return address. The applicant must provide both the county of nativity and the country of the address, even if both are the same, in order to avoid disqualification.

### ***Mailing Address***

*The addresses for submitting DV-2003 applications has changed.* Applicants for the DV-2003 lottery visa must mail their entries to one of the six Kentucky Consular Center regional addresses listed below. Depending upon the region of the applicant's native country, applications should be sent to the following locations:

- **Africa:**  
DV-2003 Program  
Kentucky Consular Center  
1001 Visa Crest  
Migrate, KY 41901-1000, U.S.A.
- **Asia:**  
DV-2003 Program  
Kentucky Consular Center  
2002 Visa Crest  
Migrate, KY 41902-2000, U.S.A.
- **Europe:**  
DV-2003 Program  
Kentucky Consular Center  
3003 Visa Crest  
Migrate, KY 41903-3000, U.S.A.
- **South America/Central America/Caribbean:**  
DV-2003 Program  
Kentucky Consular Center  
4004 Visa Crest  
Migrate, KY 41904-4000, U.S.A.
- **Oceania:**  
DV-2003 Program  
Kentucky Consular Center  
5005 Visa Crest  
Migrate, KY 41905-5000, U.S.A.
- **North America:**  
DV-2003 Program  
Kentucky Consular Center  
6006 Visa Crest  
Migrate, KY 41906-6000, U.S.A.

## **Application Processing**

Applicants are selected at random by computer from among all qualified entries. There is no advantage to mailing early, mailing from any particular place, or employing an intermediary, such as a mail service, an attorney, or an outside consultant. Every entry received during the mail-in period meeting all required specifications will have an equal random chance of being selected within its region.

Selected applicants will be notified by mail between April and June 2002 along with instructions on how to apply for an immigrant visa. Applicants not selected will not receive a response to their registration request.

Applicants selected in the DV-2003 lottery are entitled to apply for and obtain immigrant visas from October 1, 2002 through September 30, 2003. Because the number of applicants selected in the DV Lottery is greater than the number of immigrant visas available, and

selection does not automatically guarantee being issued a visa, it is advised that those that are selected act quickly on their immigrant visa applications.

Sample entries are available through an automated fax service by calling 202-647-3000 from any fax machine or requesting document number 1550.

**List of Qualifying Countries by Region**

The lists below show the countries QUALIFIED within each geographic region for this diversity program. The determination of countries within each region is based on information provided by the Geographer of the Department of State. The countries that do not qualify for the DV-2003 program were identified by the Immigration and Naturalization Service according to the formula in Section 203(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Dependent areas overseas are included within the region of the governing country. The countries that do NOT qualify for this diversity program (because they are the principal source countries of Family-Sponsored and Employment-Based immigration, or "high admission" countries) are noted after the respective regional lists.

***Africa***

ALGERIA	ERITREA	NAMIBIA
ANGOLA	ETHIOPIA	NIGER
BENIN	GABON	NIGERIA
BOTSWANA	GAMBIA, THE	RWANDA
BURKINA FASO	GHANA	SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE
BURUNDI	GUINEA	SENEGAL
CAMEROON	GUINEA-BISSAU	SEYCHELLES
CAPE VERDE	KENYA	SIERRA LEONE
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	LESOTHO	SOMALIA
CHAD	LIBERIA	SOUTH AFRICA
COMOROS	LIBYA	SUDAN
CONGO	MADAGASCAR	SWAZILAND
CONGO, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE	MALAWI	TANZANIA
COTE D'IVOIRE (IVORY COAST)	MALI	TOGO
DJIBOUTI	MAURITANIA	TUNISIA
EGYPT	MAURITIUS	UGANDA
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	MOROCCO	ZAMBIA
	MOZAMBIQUE	ZIMBABWE

***Asia***

AFGHANISTAN	BHUTAN	CAMBODIA
BAHRAIN	BRUNEI	HONG KONG (Special Administrative Region)
BANGLADESH	BURMA	

INDONESIA	MACAU (Special Administrative Region)	SAUDI ARABIA
IRAN		SINGAPORE
IRAQ	MALAYSIA	SRI LANKA
ISRAEL	MALDIVES	SYRIA
JAPAN	MONGOLIA	TAIWAN
JORDAN	NEPAL	THAILAND
KUWAIT	NORTH KOREA	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
LAOS	OMAN	YEMEN
LEBANON	QATAR	

- Asia countries that do not qualify for this year's diversity program: CHINA - [mainland-born], INDIA, PAKISTAN, SOUTH KOREA, PHILIPPINES, and VIETNAM.
- The HONG KONG S.A.R., MACAU S.A.R. and TAIWAN do qualify and are listed above.

***Europe***

ALBANIA	GREECE	POLAND
ANDORRA	HUNGARY	PORTUGAL
ARMENIA	ICELAND	ROMANIA
AUSTRIA	IRELAND	RUSSIA
AZERBAIJAN	ITALY	SAN MARINO
BELARUS	KAZAKHSTAN	SLOVAKIA
BELGIUM	KYRGYZSTAN	SLOVENIA
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	LATVIA	SPAIN
BULGARIA	LIECHTENSTEIN	SWEDEN
CROATIA	LITHUANIA	SWITZERLAND
CYPRUS	LUXEMBOURG	TAJIKISTAN
CZECH REPUBLIC	MACEDONIA, THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF	TURKEY
DENMARK (incl. components and dependent areas overseas)	MALTA	TURKMENISTAN
ESTONIA	MOLDOVA	UKRAINE
FINLAND	MONACO	UZBEKISTAN
FRANCE (incl. components and dependent areas overseas)	NETHERLANDS (incl. components and dependent areas overseas)	VATICAN CITY
GEORGIA	NORTHERN IRELAND	YUGOSLAVIA, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
GERMANY	NORWAY	

- European countries not qualified for this year's diversity program: GREAT BRITAIN (UNITED KINGDOM) which includes the following dependent areas: ANGUILLA,

BERMUDA, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, CAYMAN ISLANDS, FALKLAND ISLANDS, GIBRALTAR, MONTSERRAT, PITCAIRN, ST. HELENA, TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.

- Note that for purposes of the diversity program only, Northern Ireland is treated separately; Northern Ireland does qualify and is listed among the qualifying areas.

**North America**

THE BAHAMAS

- In North America, CANADA does not qualify for this year's diversity program.

**Oceania**

AUSTRALIA (incl. components and dependent areas overseas)	MICRONESIA, FEDERATED STATES OF NAURU	SOLOMON ISLANDS TONGA
FIJI	NEW ZEALAND (including components and dependent areas overseas)	TUVALU VANUATU
KIRIBATI	PALAU	SAMOA
MARSHALL ISLANDS	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	

**South America, Central America, and the Caribbean**

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	DOMINICA	PERU
ARGENTINA	ECUADOR	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS
BARBADOS	GRENADA	SAINT LUCIA
BELIZE	GUATEMALA	SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
BOLIVIA	GUYANA	SURINAME
BRAZIL	HONDURAS	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
CHILE	NICARAGUA	URUGUAY
COSTA RICA	PANAMA	VENEZUELA
CUBA	PARAGUAY	

- Countries in this region that do not qualify for this year's diversity program: COLOMBIA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, EL SALVADOR, HAITI, JAMAICA, and MEXICO.

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