

UNCLASSIFIED 15 STATE 113716

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SUBJECT: 2017 Diversity Immigrant Visa Program (DV-2017)

1. The formal public announcement of the Diversity Visa (DV) 2017 program will be made October 1, 2015, in Washington, D.C. After that date, posts may access an English-language version of the DV-2017 instructions bulletin from Travel.State.Gov (TSG).
2. The Immigration and Nationality Act states that no DVs shall be provided for "high admission" countries – those countries from which there were more than a total of 50,000 immigrants during the previous five years. Each year, the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services compiles the immigrant admission figures for the previous five years to identify the countries that must be excluded from the annual DV program. A separate determination is made before each program application period, and the list of countries eligible for the program changes from year to year.
3. For DV-2017, there are no changes to the eligible countries list. The complete list of ineligible countries includes: Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China (mainland-born), Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, South Korea, the United Kingdom (excluding Northern Ireland) and its dependent territories, and Vietnam. These countries are ineligible for the DV-2017 program because they met the 50,000 threshold for immigrant entries to the United States in the past five years. (Note: Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan remain eligible.)
4. The E-DV system will be open for entries beginning noon Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on October 1, 2015, and will close for entries at noon Eastern Standard Time (EST) on November 3, 2015. Posts should encourage DV program entrants to apply early. In the past, system delays caused by extremely heavy demand in the final days of the registration period prevented some individuals from submitting entries. While we continue to upgrade the system, overwhelming demand could cause delays. No entries will be accepted after noon EST on November 3, 2015, regardless of system delays during the registration period.
5. The Department is once again utilizing web-based tools to notify entrants of their selection and visa interview appointment as part of ongoing efforts to combat fraud perpetrated against DV entrants. The Department will not send selectee notification or appointment letters to successful entrants by regular mail or by email. Starting May 3, 2016, entrants may enter their DV-2017 entry confirmation number into the Entrant Status Check, available at

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www.dvlottery.state.gov, to determine whether their entry was selected. Selected individuals who respond to the notification instructions provided on the E-DV selectee confirmation page on Entrant Status Check also will receive notification of their scheduled IV appointment through Entrant Status Check. DV-2017 data will be available through Entrant Status Check until at least September 30, 2017. All entrants should keep their confirmation number until September 30, 2017, regardless of whether they are selected initially.

6. The Entrant Status Check, when available on May 3, 2016, will provide next-step instructions to selectees, and will direct each selectee to the "Instructions for Selectees" web pages, which are accessible at dvselectee.state.gov.

7. DV-2017 selectees who respond to the notification instructions on Entrant Status Check will receive email communication alerting them that a visa appointment has been scheduled. These emails will not contain the actual appointment date and time, but will instead direct selectees to check their interview appointment details on Entrant Status Check.

8. Posts may translate the DV instructions bulletin locally, provided that the translation is accurate and complete (including all FAQs) and that the layout of the translated bulletin looks as much like the English version as possible.

9. Key data:

- The DV-2017 program registration period will run from noon, EDT on October 1, 2015, through noon, EST November 3, 2015.
- The DV-2017 program will be conducted entirely electronically, including electronic entry. Paper entries are not accepted. The Department website established for the submission of E-DV entries is www.dvlottery.state.gov.
- Registered entries that comply with form submission instructions will result in the display of a confirmation screen page containing the entrant's name and confirmation number, which should then be printed. The confirmation screen page will provide information the entrant must use to electronically check the status of his/her own entry through the Entrant Status Check available at www.dvlottery.state.gov. Only those entrants who have their confirmation information will be able to check their Entrant Status and, if selected, receive application instructions and notification of their IV interview appointment. A link on the Entry Status Check page will allow entrants to retrieve their confirmation number by entering their email address, last name, and year of birth.
- Entrants may prepare and submit their own entries or have someone submit the entry for them. Whether an entry is submitted by the individual directly, or assistance is provided by an attorney, friend, relative, etc., only one entry may be submitted in the name of each individual, and the person entering DV-2017 remains responsible for ensuring that the information is correct and complete. All entrants, including those not selected, will be

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able to check the status of their entry through the Entrant Status Check available at www.dvlottery.state.gov.

- Neither consular sections nor KCC are permitted to release confirmation numbers to the public, nor to confirm whether or not an entrant has been selected. The only means by which an entrant may confirm selection and obtain appointment information is through the Entry Status Check.
- The law allows only one entry by or for each person during each registration period. The Department uses sophisticated technology to detect multiple entries. Entrants who submit more than one entry will be disqualified.

10. Please refer to the DV-2017 Instructions at usvisas.state.gov/dv/instructions for complete program rules and answers to Frequently Asked Questions from entrants. These instructions should be read carefully, as failure to comply with all the instructions could result in the disqualification of an entry.