

Entries for the DV-2016

There is only one way to enter the DV-2016 lottery. You must submit the DS-5501, the Electronic Diversity Visa Entry Form (E-DV Entry Form), which is accessible only online at the E-DV website <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov/>.

The online registration period for the 2016 Diversity Visa Program (DV-2016) will begin on Wednesday, October 1, 2015, at noon, Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) (GMT-4), and conclude on Monday, November 3, 2015, at noon, Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) (GMT-4).

Notification of Winners

All entrants, including those NOT selected, may check the status of their entry through the Entrant Status Check available online starting May 5, 2015, at the E-DV website <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov/>. Click on Entrant Status Check, and enter your unique confirmation number and personal information. **Entrant Status Check will be the sole means of informing you of your selection for DV-2016**, providing instructions to you on how to proceed with your application, and notifying you of your appointment for your immigrant visa interview. Therefore, it is essential you retain your confirmation number and do not give it to third party.

Don't be a Victim of Fraud

Beware of any emails that you receive regarding your DV entry. The Department of State never uses email to notify entrants that they have been selected for the DV Program. Any emails from the Department will only alert applicants to perform an Entrant Status Check. *You should not believe any email claiming that you have been selected to apply for a visa under the DV program.*

Do not allow a third party to retain your confirmation page after entry. Some unscrupulous visa facilitators have assisted entrants with their entries, retained the confirmation page, and then demanded more money in exchange for essential information on the confirmation page.

Remember, DV entry is free. Do not fall victim to scams demanding money for entry.

Our Goal

Our goal is to encourage all Albanian citizens applying for the DV Lottery to review the Diversity Visa Lottery Instructions before completing the application.

Errors in the application process, such as not including your spouse or all of your eligible children or entering multiple times will result in disqualification of your entry.

Additionally, the educational and professional requirements for qualifying for a Diversity Visa are very strict; please review the requirements carefully before deciding to enter.



Diversity Visas Frequently Asked Questions

U.S. Department of State
Bureau of Consular Affairs
U.S. Embassy Tirana, Albania



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Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Does everyone selected by the computer automatically qualify for a visa?

No. To qualify for the DV, applicants must meet very strict educational or professional eligibility requirements. DV applicants must have completed a 12 year full time course of study in the United States or a formal course of elementary and secondary education comparable to completion of 12 years of elementary and secondary education in the United States. Not all types of education qualify for the program, so applicants should be well informed of education requirements when deciding whether or not they should enter the DV. For more information about qualifying education, please see the answer for "which education qualifies for the DV?."

While it is possible to qualify based on work experience, the professions that can be used for this experience almost always require a level of education above the high school education required by the DV.

Even if someone is selected by the computer, if they don't meet the minimum qualifications, they can't receive a visa through the DV.

Q. Which education qualifies for the DV?

Based on the education requirement, Albanians who have not completed a full time high school education that is at least equivalent to a U.S. high school education (4 years, full-time, general studies) won't qualify. Part time high school diplomas, without a break from work, evening school, or correspondence - including five year programs or long-term programs (part time, without a break from work, evening school, or correspondence) don't qualify for the DV.

In addition, vocational high school degrees rarely qualify for the DV program.

Q. What work experience qualifies for the DV?

Like education, not all work experience qualifies for the DV Program. To qualify based on work experience instead of education, an entrant must have at least 2 years' experience in the past 5 years at a job that has a valuation of at least 7.0 on the Department of Labor's O*Net online database. You can find the database at <http://www.onetonline.org/>

Q. Who must I include on my E-DV entry?

You **must** include your spouse (husband or wife) and all unmarried children under 21 years of age. You must list your spouse even if you are currently separated from him/her, unless you are legally separated (i.e., there is a court order. Failure to list your eligible spouse will result in disqualification of the principal applicant and refusal of all visas in the case at the time of the visa interview.

You must list ALL your children who are unmarried and under 21 years of age at the time of your initial E-DV entry even if they no longer reside with you or do not intend to immigrate with you. All should be entered whether they are your natural children, your spouse's children, or children you have formally adopted. Failure to include all children will result in disqualification of the principal applicant and refusal of all visas in the case at the time of the visa interview.

Not all family members included in your entry must travel with you. Spouses or children/stepchildren acquired after the electronic entry will be allowed to apply, but please be advised that additional documentation, information, and processing time will be required.

Q. If I am selected, I have until September 30, 2016 to complete all requirements for the visa, regardless of my interview date, correct?

No. In order to guarantee visa issuance, your visa must be issued in the month in which your interview was scheduled. If your case is incomplete in that month, you risk not being issued a visa at all if available numbers run out in advance of the September 30 program end.

Q. How many entries can I submit?

Each entrant is permitted to submit only one entry per DV year. Additional entries will be detected by the computer, resulting in the disqualification of all entries made by that entrant.

Q. Should I pay any fees for the electronic entry of DV?

No. There is no cost to enter the DV lottery. Any intermediaries or others who offer assistance to prepare DV entries do so without the authority or consent of the U.S. Government. Use of any outside intermediary or assistance to prepare a DV entry is entirely at the entrant's discretion.

Q. I'm selected for the DV program. Where do I pay the fees for the DV?

You will pay the visa application fee on the day of your formal interview in the Consular Section only at the time of interview. Please do not become a victim of fraudulent emails that ask you to send money to a named individual by mail or by services such as Western Union.

Q. How do I report internet fraud or unsolicited email?

If you wish to file a complaint about internet fraud, please see visit econsumer.gov, which is a joint effort of consumer protection agencies from 17 nations, hosted by the Federal Trade Commission. You can also visit the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) website. To file a complaint about unsolicited email, contact the Department of Justice.

For complete information on the rules and regulations of the DV Program, please visit:

<http://travel.state.gov/>

