

PRESS RELEASE



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EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

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2014 Diversity Visa Lottery Program Registration

The U.S. Embassy in Port of Spain announces the opening of the 2014 Diversity Visa Lottery Program, the only official lottery program for immigrant visas to the United States. Registration for the program begins at noon Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on Tuesday, October 2, 2012, and ends at noon Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on Saturday, November 3, 2012.

The annual U.S. government-sponsored program makes more than 50,000 immigrant visas available worldwide to persons from countries, including Trinidad and Tobago, with lower rates of immigration to the United States.

The application process is free and program requirements are simple, but strict. Most notably, applicants must have the equivalent of a U.S. high school degree or work experience in a job that requires at least two years of formal training. (Information about qualifying job experience can be found at the website listed below.) Applicants who apply for a Diversity Visa but do not have the required education or training experience will not qualify to immigrate to the U.S. Applicants should check the requirements at www.dvlottery.state.gov to make sure they qualify before applying.

All applications must be submitted electronically. Applicants may apply at www.dvlottery.state.gov anytime during the registration period and are strongly encouraged not to wait until the last week of the registration period to enter, as heavy demand may result in website delays. No entries will be accepted after noon on November 3, 2012. There is no fee to apply. **Diversity Visa lottery winners pay a fee only to the U.S. Embassy** on the day of their visa interview. When registering, applicants must print and save their confirmation page with their unique confirmation code in order to check the status of their entry.

After applications are submitted, a computer-generated, random drawing chooses selectees for Diversity Visas. The visas are distributed among six geographic regions. No single country receives more than seven percent of the available Diversity Visas in any one year.

Beginning May 1, 2013, DV-2014 entrants will be able to use their unique confirmation number to see if their entry was selected via the online Entry Status Check website at <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov>. Successful entrants will receive instructions for how to apply for immigrant visas for themselves and their eligible family members. Confirmation of visa interview appointments will also be made through Entry Status Check. Applicants will not receive notification letters by mail, email or phone. It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to check the website for notification of lottery selection.

The Department of State implemented an electronic registration system to make the Diversity Visa process more efficient and secure. The Department utilizes special technology and other means to identify those who commit fraud for the purposes of illegal immigration or those who submit multiple entries.

For detailed information about entry requirements, along with frequently asked questions about the program, please see the instructions for the DV-2014 Diversity Visa lottery at http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_1318.html.

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