Diversity Visas Most Frequently Asked Questions – for a complete set of FAQs, visit the DV-2013 Instructions.

1. **How do I enter the Diversity Immigrant Visa Program (green card lottery)? Who is eligible?**

   The only way to enter the Diversity Visa is through the Department of State’s official online entry system at, [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov). Entry into the lottery is completely free. Although there is no prohibition against using the services of an agency or translation service to assist you in preparing your entry, we strongly encourage all applicants to submit their own applications and to verify that all of their information is complete and correct.

   Nationals of certain countries with low immigration rates to the United States, which includes Poland for the 2013 program year, are eligible to enter the lottery. To receive a visa, applicants must meet simple but strict education or work requirements, and must not have pre-existing ineligibilities. For information about eligibility requirements, please visit [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov).

2. **I won the visa lottery. Does that mean I will get a visa? Will I get my Legal Permanent Resident card (Green Card) at the embassy?**

   Winning the lottery does not guarantee that an applicant will receive an immigrant visa and a green card. Winning the lottery gives an applicant the right to apply for an immigrant visa as a diversity immigrant. Winning applicants must come to the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw for an interview with a consul to determine whether they meet the education or work requirement and are eligible to receive a visa. Applicants who successfully obtain immigrant visas and travel to the United States will be admitted as Legal Permanent Residents and will be sent their I-551 green cards by mail within the next few months to the U.S. address printed on the visa packet.

3. **Some of my family members did not appear on my original entry form into the Diversity Visa lottery. What should I do now?**

   If your family situation has changed since you submitted your original entry to the Diversity Visa lottery (for instance, you have gotten married, divorced, or had a child since you entered), you will be allowed to submit a visa application that reflects your new family status. Applicants should take care to submit a visa application that includes any new family members or changes in family status. New family members will be eligible to apply for visas.

   If the family information you submitted on the original entry form was incorrect or incomplete at the time you entered the lottery, you will unfortunately be found ineligible for an immigrant visa. However, this is not a permanent ineligibility and you may become able to receive a diversity visa in subsequent years or receive a different class of employment or family based immigrant visa. You should tell the embassy’s consular section about any inconsistency in your personal data and family status as soon as you become aware of the inconsistency. Attempting to conceal an
inconsistency could constitute misrepresentation in order to obtain an immigration benefit. Misrepresentation carries the serious penalty of a permanent ineligibility for a U.S. visa.

Due to the importance of submitting a complete and accurate lottery entry, we strongly recommend that all applicants complete the online entry process themselves, without using an agency or intermediary, and that all applicants take care to verify their information before submitting the entry.

4. My relative in the United States has filed a family based immigrant visa petition for me. Can I enter the Diversity Visa lottery?

Yes! Pending immigrant visa applications, whether employment or family based, do not affect your eligibility for a diversity immigrant visa.

5. I have been denied a non-immigrant visa in the past. Am I eligible for a Diversity Visa?

Section 214(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the “intending immigrant” clause) provides the basis for the vast majority of non-immigrant visa denials. If you have been refused under 214(b) in the past, this will not affect your diversity visa application or any other immigrant visa application.

Prior visa refusals on the basis of sections of the Immigration and Nationality Act other than 214(b) might mean that you are ineligible for an immigrant visa. Only an interview with a consul can determine for certain whether these prior refusals reflect ineligibility for an immigrant visa. If you know or suspect that you might be ineligible for a visa because of prior refusals, we strongly suggest that you contact the consular section’s Public Liaison Unit at publicwrw@state.gov to discuss your situation before proceeding with your diversity visa application.

6. My applications for non-immigrant visas have always been denied under section 214(b). Can I use a Diversity Visa to facilitate my business or tourist travel to the United States?

Diversity immigrant visas, like all immigrant visas, are issued to individuals who plan to immigrate and permanently relocate to the United States. Upon arrival in the United States and submitting your immigrant visa you will become a Legal Permanent Resident and should receive your green card within a few months. Although you can legally leave the United States at any time, failure to maintain a residence in the United States, or extended periods of absence from the United States might cause you to lose Legal Permanent Resident status. Depending on your personal situation, you may or may not be able to regain that status if you lose it. We strongly encourage applicants to apply for the diversity visa lottery only if they have a genuine desire to immigrate to the United States.
7. In the past I have overstayed a non-immigrant visa, entered and lived in the United States illegally, or have been deported from the United States. Am I eligible for a Diversity Visa?

Winning the diversity visa lottery does not remove pre-existing visa ineligibilities. If you know that you are ineligible under the Immigration and Nationality Act’s Section 212(a)(9)(B)(i)(I) (the “three year ban”) or Section 212(a)(9)(B)(i)(II) (the “ten year ban”), then you will be ineligible for any immigrant visa until your ban expires. Depending on your personal situation, you may or may not be allowed to request a waiver of the ineligibility.

Some applicants may have ineligibilities for grounds other than immigration violations, such as misrepresentation, a criminal record, or a health related ground. Winning the lottery does not remove these ineligibilities. As every individual situation is different, only an interview with a consul can determine for certain whether you are ineligible for a visa. However, if you suspect you might be ineligible for a visa because of prior immigration violations or for another reason, we strongly recommend that you contact the Public Liaison Unit at publicwrw@state.gov to discuss your situation before continuing with the application process.

8. I am a Diversity Visa lottery winner, but how do I know if I meet the education requirements?

The annual Diversity Visa program makes immigrant visas available to persons meeting simple, but strict, eligibility requirements. An applicant must have either a high school education or its equivalent. This means that there must be a total of 12 years of successfully completed study among elementary and secondary education. The embassy verifies education credentials at the time of visa interview.

9. Which professions meet the work requirement to qualify for a Diversity Visa?

If a person doesn’t meet the minimum education requirement, they may still be eligible for the Diversity Visa program if they have two years of work experience within the past five years in an occupation requiring at least two years of training or experience to perform. The U.S. Department of Labor’s O*Net OnLine database is used to determine qualifying work experience, http://online.onetcenter.org. At the website under "Find Occupations", select "Job Family" from the pull down, locate your specific occupation, and click on the link. Under the “Job Zone” section, you will find the designated Job Zone and SVP Range. Professions in Job Zones 4 and 5 with SVP scores of at least 7.0 meet the requirement. The embassy verifies work credentials at the time of visa interview.

10. I received an email, phone call, or letter stating that I won the Diversity Visa Lottery, and an offer to help me get my visa. Should I cooperate with or send money to the people who contacted me?
No! The Department of State only uses the online registration and status check system to communicate with winners. We do not cooperate with any agents, translation bureaus, or visa facilitators. The only time you should pay any money throughout the entire process is when you come to the embassy building for your interview with a consul. A criminal organization seeking to steal your money has likely contacted you, not the Department of State. Please let us know about any people who contact you claiming to represent the United States government or the diversity visa lottery program by writing us at publicwrw@state.gov.

Occasionally agents or visa facilitators will enter people into the lottery without their knowledge and then demand money or cooperation in exchange for online registration numbers and visa appointments. Please do not cooperate with them or pay them anything. Instead, contact us at the email address above and we can advise you on the next steps to take.