Diversity Immigrant Visa Program (DV-2009)

The annual DV program makes diversity immigrant visas available to persons meeting the simple, but strict, eligibility requirements. A computer-generated random lottery drawing chooses selectees for diversity visas. The visas, however, are distributed among six geographic regions with a greater number of visas going to regions with lower rates of immigration, and with no visas going to nationals of countries sending more than 50,000 immigrants to the U.S. over the period of the past five years.

Entries for the DV-2009 Diversity Visa lottery must be submitted electronically between October 3, 2007 and December 2, 2007. Applicants may access the electronic Diversity Visa entry form at www.dvlottery.state.gov during the registration period. Paper entries will not be accepted. Applicants are strongly encouraged not to wait until the last week of the registration period to enter. Heavy demand may result in website delays.

For DV-2009, natives of the following countries are not eligible to apply because they sent a total of more than 50,000 immigrants to the U.S. over the period of the previous five years:

BRAZIL, CANADA, CHINA (mainland-born), COLOMBIA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, HAITI, INDIA, JAMAICA, MEXICO, PAKISTAN, PHILIPPINES, PERU, POLAND, RUSSIA, SOUTH KOREA, UNITED KINGDOM (except Northern Ireland) and its dependent territories, and VIETNAM. Persons born in Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR and Taiwan are eligible.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

No fee is charged for the electronic lottery entry in the annual DV program. The U.S. Government employs no outside consultants or private services to operate the DV program. 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.

A qualified entry submitted electronically directly by an applicant has an equal chance of being selected by the computer at the Kentucky Consular Center, as does an entry submitted electronically through a paid intermediary who completes the entry for the applicant. Every entry received during the lottery registration period will have an equal random chance of being selected within its region. However, receipt of more than one entry per person will disqualify the person from registration, regardless of the source of the entry.

F-1 AND J-1 STUDENT ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

STUDENTS PLEASE NOTE THIS!

Students in valid F-1 and J-1 student status who are working on-campus need to be aware that they are responsible for staying within the number of hours per week that they are authorized to work. General on-campus employment is restricted to 20 hours per week, not 21 or 22...just 20 during the academic term. Going over 20 hours during the academic term without authorization is a violation of the F-1 or J-1 student status. If you do this violation, you will have to file a reinstatement of your immigration status. The cost for an F-1 reinstatement is $195.00, you must quit your job immediately, and we must petition the U.S. Immigration Service for a forgiveness of the violation. This process can take months and if denied you may be required to depart the United States. Please avoid these circumstances by being aware of the number of hours you are authorized to work. Many employers may not be aware of your restrictions. Ultimately YOU are responsible for what you do. If you are not sure what you are allowed to do, please consult with the Foreign Student Advisor.

Questions, please email Stacye Fraser at sfraser@uab.edu