

U.S. EMBASSY TASHKENT WEBCHAT ON DIVERSITY VISA LOTTERY 2012

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OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

Moderator: Our second webchat on Diversity Visa (Green Card) Lottery 2012 will start 16:00, today, October 21. You can start submitting your questions now and get your answers during the actual webchat.

Moderator: We are about to start the webchat on the Diversity Visa Lottery 2012. Just get ready, as we are waiting for our guest speakers!

Moderator: Greetings, everyone! We are ready to start our second webchat on the Diversity Visa Lottery 2012. Our first webchat, which took place on October 12, was really successful and we hope we'll have another good one today. By the way, you can download the transcript of the first webchat from our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/usdos.uzbekistan>. Now I would like to welcome our two guest speakers, Consular Officers Matthew and Grant, who are here to tell you about this year's DV Lottery and also answer your questions. With this, I will pass the floor to them and will continue collecting your questions to make sure they get answered by the end of the webchat. Matthew, Grant, it's great to have you back! :)

Matthew: Hi Everyone. I'm a Vice Consul in the Embassy's Consular Section and am looking forward to answering any questions you might have about this year's Green Card Lottery.

Grant: And I am also a Vice Consul at the Embassy and look forward to answering your questions!

sardor: hello dear Mr/Mrs!

Matthew: We won't go through the presentation but look at it on your own and ask any questions you might have. We also have some questions that were already submitted in advance that we'll answer. With us today also are our consular assistants who can answer questions in Russian and Uzbek as well.

USAdream: Hi, I am a winner of DV lottery 2011 and I have a suggestion regarding the interview appointments. Is there anyway the US embassy in Tashkent can display interview appointment on the website. If you go this link, (US embassy in Ankara does it) http://www.usemb-ankara.org.tr/consular/english/schedule_dv.html

Matthew: Thank you for the suggestion. We'll take a look at Embassy Ankara's website and see if that will work for Uzbekistan as well.

shuxa: give me please link of registration to lottery

Grant: You can register for the lottery at www.dvlottery.state.gov.

sitora: if I applied for green card am I ineligible for applying to the Study programs?

Grant: Yes, you are still eligible to apply as a student to study in America!

sardor: Hi Mr Matthew, I've got one question. I was born in Uzbekistan, but now studying abroad, in online application for the question where do I live now, how should I respond? i.e. should I write the country where I'm living today or Uzbekistan? thanks.

Matthew: You should list your current place of residence where you are studying now, but your place of birth should still be listed as Uzbekistan.

USAdream: Thank you, Matthew.

Maxim: Hi! Do you speak Russia?

Consular Assistant: Да Максим, мы можем отвечать на русском языке.

question: if one has a two year requirement (from J1 visa), if he applies for DV-lottery now and wins, can he postpone the interview after the time when he is done with two years? can the interview be done after 1.5 or 2 yrs after winning the lottery?

Matthew: If you are subject to the 2-year requirement for previous exchange students (J-1 visa holders), you can postpone your interview until after the two years are over as long as the interview takes place before the DV 2012 program ends on September 30, 2012. There will be no visas available for this year's winners after September 30, 2012.

question: many of my friends are asking me to submit an application for them, filling out many applications using the one computer, does it effect on winning chances of the applicants? I mean does computer recognize the IP address of the computer used to submit many applications and might eliminate them when choosing? is it better to use different computers when submitting many application for multiple friends?

Grant: The computer you use doesn't matter. Different people can use the same computer. Just make sure you don't submit multiple applications for the same person! That will disqualify that person from the lottery.

question: if I am not mistaken, passport number was needed to fill out the application, this year I noticed, there is no passport number question on the DV-lottery application? is it another change for this year?

Matthew: That is correct. You do not need to provide your passport number to apply for the DV-lottery. Internet cafes, however, may ask for the passport to help them fill out your online entry after you've left or for other reasons. In providing them your passport information to them you do so at your own risk.

Matthew: But as far as we're concerned, no passport number is needed.

USAdream: Plus, the link on your website about DV Interview Preparation Instructions (PDF - 195kB) on your website is not working.

Matthew: Thank you for noticing that. We'll start working on it right away.

question: what does 300 dpi resolution mean?

Matthew: 300 dpi means 300 dots per inch

question: if a picture dimensions are 600x600, color space RGB, size 135KB in jpeg format, does it meet the photo requirements? I am not sure how to check if it has 300 dpi resolution or not. how can I check that?

Matthew: Before a photographic print is scanned, it must meet the compositional specifications listed above. If the photographic print meets the print color and compositional specifications, scan the print using the following scanner specifications:

Scanner Resolution: Scanned at a resolution of at least 300 dots per inch (dpi).

Image File Format: The image must be in the Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG) format.

Image File Size: The maximum image file size is 240 kilobytes (240 KB).

Image Resolution: 600 by 600 pixels. Image Color Depth: 24-bit color. [Note that black and white, monochrome, or grayscale images will not be accepted.]

Before scanning a picture, you can set your scanners settings to 300 dpi. If you already have an electronic photograph, you can open it using a computer graphics program and look at the photos specifications to see if it meets the requirements. If you're really not sure, we know of some who go to an Internet Café and just ask them to take the picture for them and save it on a disk but fill out the online lottery registration later by themselves.

sardor: At the time of applying I'm not married, and if I win the green card for 2012, and get married till I move to the US, can I take my spouse with me as well or not?

Grant: You may bring your spouse with you to America if you get married after winning the green card lottery, but you should be married before the date of your visa interview at the Embassy.

Moderator: Just keep those questions coming!

question: does it really matter to give US postal address or Uzbekistan postal address if you are filling out the application while you are in US?

Matthew: Because you will no longer be notified by mail, we don't really see any reason why the address is still needed. However, the question is still there so please include your mailing address whatever it may be.

Grant: We also want to remind everyone that it is FREE to register and participate in the green card lottery. There is no fee to register at www.dvlottery.state.gov.

Grant: You should be careful of any person trying to get money from you as an "application fee" for submitting your green card lottery application.

Grant: We recognize that some internet cafes may charge a service fee to help you fill out the application, but the U.S. government does not charge any fee to those participating in the lottery.

Grant: The only time you will ever pay would be if you WIN the lottery and come to the U.S. Embassy for a visa interview. You will pay in person directly to the cashier at the Embassy.

Grant: Also, it's important to print out and KEEP your confirmation page when you register for the lottery online. Don't let anyone else keep this page and don't lose it!

USAdream: My question is regarding an interview process. How old should a Police Certificate be from Uzbekistan? Is it within 6 months on an actual interview date?

Consular Assistant: The police certificate from the country of your current residence is valid for 6 months from the date of its issuance, this means that on the date of your interview your police certificate should be valid.

Grant: The number on the confirmation page is the only way that you can check online on May 1, 2011 to see if you've won the lottery!

Matthew: As you're filling in the data online please try to provide accurate information. Some unintentional mistakes can be corrected after you register for the lottery.

Matthew: However, mistakes about your marital status and children can immediately disqualify you. If you are separated from your spouse but still legally married to him or her, DON'T say you're divorced or single! You'll be disqualified.

Sewara: if you apply for green card, does that mean we will in the immigration list of people who want to immigrate to usa and can't get visa for studying or traveling to usa later ?

Grant: No. If you apply for a green card you may still be eligible to travel to the United States to study or for tourism if you are a qualified applicant. That being said, if you are an unqualified applicant, the fact that you have intended to immigrate to the U.S. in the past can inform the consular officer's decision whether or not to grant you a non-immigrant visa.

Matthew: Also be sure to include all of your children who are now under the age of 21, even if they will be older than 21 at the time of the visa interview and therefore perhaps unable to immigrate with you. Include them anyway. If your spouse has children from another marriage, include them. If you've adopted a child, include them. If you have a child, but haven't seen the child for many years, still include them. If you don't, you'll be disqualified! This mistake is commonly made and we can't issue visas to anyone in the entire family if one person is left out.

sardor: One more question, if I win the lottery, how much expense am I supposed to spend for going to the US and settling the job there?

Consular Assistant: Sardor, before answering to your question let us please inform you that the Department of State and the U.S. Government do not provide a job or a place to live for the Lottery winners in the framework of this program. Therefore you have to make all necessary arrangements such as tickets, place to live and etc yourself. Regarding the amount, we cannot really recommend because some people like to spend more money than others.

USAdream: What is an administrative background check? I heard some people get that background checking in the interview before issuing visa? In what circumstances or situations do some people get checked?

Matthew: In some cases, additional processing is required for any number of reasons. Generally, however, applicants who meet the requirements and are therefore qualified for the visa receive a visa.

Moderator: We'll be happy to take more questions, if there are any! :)

Matthew: Last year, some applicants were delayed a bit but all of them who were qualified eventually received a visa before the program ended.

Matthew: That's why it is important to make sure all of your documents are ready when you come for an interview.

Matthew: Sometimes, some cases are delayed and refused when a Green Card Lottery winner married someone else just to help that other person immigrate to America.

Matthew: Please don't be one of those people (who enters into a fake marriage to get some extra money) because we will catch them and they will be banned from ever traveling to the United States.

Matthew: Another reason why Lottery winners are disqualified is that they don't have the equivalent of a U.S. secondary education. Do we have any questions about the education requirements?

USAdream: Another question, a family of 4 people, a husband and wife and two children. The winner is a wife and family included all family members in the application form. However, the couple makes a decision that they don't want to include the children in the interview since they're too young and it would be hard for the couple at the beginning of their life in the US. Is it permissible to leave out the children? The couple would bring the kids after naturalization.

Grant: In short, yes, it is allowable to leave out the children. Not everyone in the family has to pay for and receive visas. That being said, many people who do that wish that they had gotten visas and green cards for the children! You can petition for your children to join you from America but that process takes years and costs money too. Also, we have lots of parents who leave without their children and then try to get non-immigrant visas for their children to visit them in the United States. Usually, they are found ineligible for these visas and their kids can't visit them. Therefore, we

recommend including your children in the visa interview and getting visas and green cards for them! Otherwise you might be separated for a very long time!

Bahodir Bokiyeu: Hi, I just want to ask one question. My friend want to play the green card but his passport will expire on 23 October, so does he has any chance to play the lottery or not, because, he has to change his passport after 23 October. Can he play and if he win he can show the new passport Thank you!

Grant: Yes! He can play the lottery and get a new passport. Then he can bring in the new passport at the time of the interview.

Grant: You also don't need a passport to play the lottery! As long as you have a valid passport for your interview at the Embassy if you win.

Komil: Hello everyone. I'm a winner of 2011 DV lottery, my question is about interview, will the consul(ambassador) require about the financial status of the applicant during the interview, as I've heard from one of my friend that his familiar was required of his financial status for about 10 thousand USD more during the interview he had.

Grant: You DO NOT need to demonstrate your financial status at the interview. You just need to satisfy the consular officer that you will be able to work in America and make a living. This is not a problem for most people.

Sewara: i heard that if you work legally in US for 5 years, you can get the citizenship, is that true?

Matthew: Yes, after approximately 5 years of residing in the United States, you can apply for citizenship. Once a citizen, you'll have the full rights of any American, including the right to vote for members of government or to file immigrant papers for your parents and brothers and sisters who may still live in Uzbekistan.

sardor: Yes, If the applicant is studying in Masters Degree, but still did not complete it, how should he/she fill in the application, Master or Bachelor?

Consular Assistant: Sardor, he should list a degree which has already been obtained, such as bachelors in your case.

Sewara: but what happens with my Uzbekistan citizenship? plus I live in Uzbekistan but I work in US

Grant: You do not have to get U.S. citizenship after five years in the United States. You can remain a legal permanent resident forever. Also, even if you do get U.S. citizenship, you can still keep your Uzbek citizenship as far as U.S. law is concerned. You have many options.

sardor: A friend of mine once one the lottery, but didn't travel to the US, for some reasons, can he still apply for this year DVlottery?

Grant: Yes, he can still play the lottery.

USAdream: I know 5000 people won DV 2010 last year from Uzb-n and 3500 had granted visas last fiscal year, which 7% of 50,000, the max. number a country can get. If a main applicant and his/her family receives a visa, do you count a visa number of the main applicant or the whole family in that 3500 number? What about remaining 1500 people?

Matthew: The 3200 immigrant visas issued to Lottery winners included winners AND their family members.

Otabek_USA: Hello everyone! Thank you for organizing the web chat!

Grant: You are very welcome.

Matthew: Now I have a question for all of you: How are other companies advertising their Green Card Lottery services and how much are they asking to help you register?

sardor: I've seen some sites asking about 50-100 USD and saying that they'll provide a ticket charges for the successful applicants, i.e. winners.

Grant: What are "ticket charges"?

USAdream: I see a lot of flyers on every columns(where lights are) all over Tashkent, with phone numbers. Maybe you should call them directly :)

Consular Assistant: USAdream, thank you for this update.

Bahodir Bokiye: They are asking 18 thousand sum per applicant and most of the players do not know that they can play also by themselves without paying any money for them

Consular Assistant: 18 thousand for one entry may be? Like for example if you are a family of 4 and spouses can make two separate entries how much money will the family pay?

sardor: I mean, they say they'll provide the winners, who are registered through their sites with the free ticket to the US, but I think they are not official ones.

Grant: These, of course, are not official websites and may try to take advantage of people. The only official way to register for the lottery is at www.dvlottery.state.gov

husan: may I ask by Russian?

Consular Assistant: Да Хусан, пожалуйста задавайте вопрос на русском языке

Moderator: The webchat will end in less than 10 minutes. Submit your last questions at this time!

sardor: I noticed that starting from May 1, 2011 to June 30, 2011 we can check whether or not we won the lottery, let's say we won:) what further steps or procedures will we face then?

Grant: If you win you will get directions online about how to submit further information about yourself and how to schedule an interview at the Embassy.

husan: Moi rodstvennik s sem'ey prohodil interv'y'u s Vami po DV2011, Glavnyy aplikant - ego jena. U nih ne hvatalo nekotoryh dokumentov - spravka o ne sudimosti iz drugoy strany i resheniye suda. Konsul prosil , kogda budut gotovy eti dokumenty pozvonit' v posol'stvo, i im naznachat esche besedu. 1-vopros: Do kakogo sroka oni doljny prinesti nedostayuschie dokumenty? Esli oni ne uspeyut do etogo sroka, to im otkajut v vizah? 2-vopros: Muj aplikanta privlekalsya k otvetstvennosti, hotya on ne byl sudim. Yavlyatsya li eto prichinoy otkaza v vizah? Ili est' li nadejda chto oni mogut poluchit' vizey? Kakie vidy pravonarusheniy u chlena sem'i aplikanta vy mojete dopustit' k polucheniyu vizey? Ili est' sroki davnosti k kakim libo pravonarusheniyam?

Consular Assistant: Ответ на Ваш вопрос мы постараемся предоставить в двух частях. Если Вашим родственникам было отказано временно из-за недостающих документов им было выдано письмо с указанием названия документа, а также инструкциями о том, как получить дополнительное собеседование.

Otabek_USA: What if my parents play, is it still going impact on me of getting a visa on scholarship programs?

Grant: What your parents do should generally not affect your chances of getting a visa.

sardor: Thanks for your useful information!

Bahodir Bokiyeu: I am planning to Non-immigrant visa and if I am aware a little bit of Immigration law, does it may enhance of gaining my visa during visa interview. Thank you!

Matthew: As English philosopher Sir Francis Bacon said "Knowledge is Power."

Komil: also to what address will the green card be sent?

Grant: On your application after you win you will have to choose an address where your green card will be sent in the United States.

Grant: It can be any address.

Komil: and if is it necessary to have affidavit support?

Matthew: No, it is not necessary to have an affidavit of support as long as we're satisfied that you'll be able to work to support yourself

Consular Assistant: продолжение ответа на вопрос Хусана: У Ваших родственников есть время до 30 сентября 2011 года. Это день когда заканчивается программа, и визы после этого дня по программному 2011 году выдаваться не будут. По второй части вопроса, мы можем только ответить, что криминальная запись, имеющаяся у Вашего родственника будет рассмотрена, а также будет применено американское законодательство. Рекомендуется принести все решения суда или приговор с переводом.

Moderator: We have one more minute before we finish the webchat..

husan: spasibo bolshoe!

Komil: as i indicated the address in 11th box of DS-230, and left the 10th box empty

Consular Assistant: please make sure you will be able to complete Q10 at the time of your interview

Moderator: Alright, unfortunately, we have run out of time and will have to end the webchat now. A big thanks to our guest speakers for being here with us and answering the questions. Like we did last time, we'll publish the webchat transcript on the Embassy's website at <http://uzbekistan.usembassy.gov/> and our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/usdos.uzbekistan>.

Grant: Thanks everyone for participating!

Grant: Goodbye!

Matthew: Thanks to everyone for your questions. Please share the information you have with your friends and family

USAdream: Dear Moderator, Matthew, Grant and Consular assistants, thank you very much for your precious time and effort answering our questions!

Komil: thank you

sardor: Thanks for all!