



International Student Services Newsletter

Office of International Programs

Block 2, Volume II
October 03, 2016

Applications Now Being Accepted for the FY2018 Diversity Visa (DV) Lottery Program

Are you interested in seeking lawful permanent resident status in the United States? Then the Diversity Visa Lottery might be an opportunity for you!

The Diversity Immigrant Visa Program is administered annually by the U.S. Department of State and it provides a pathway to U.S. permanent resident status (aka "green card" status) for a class of "diversity immigrants," from countries with historically low rates of immigration to the United States. For fiscal year 2018, 50,000 diversity visas (DVs) will be available.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE LOTTERY?

Applicants must submit entries for the DV-2018 program electronically at dvlottery.state.gov between noon, Eastern Daylight Time (EDT), Tuesday, October 4, 2016 and Noon, Eastern Standard Time (EST), Monday, November 7, 2016. See <http://www.travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/immigrate/diversity-visa/instructions.html> for further information.

There is no cost to register for the DV program. Applicants who are selected in the lottery ("selectees") must meet simple, but strict, eligibility requirements in order to qualify for a diversity visa.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO ENTER THE LOTTERY?

The DV lottery is open to natives of countries that have historically low rates of immigration to the United States. Entrants must have a high school education (or equivalent) or at least two years of qualifying work experience. Individuals from countries with high rates of U.S. immigration are NOT eligible to register. This year, those born in the following countries are ineligible:

- Bangladesh
- Brazil
- Canada
- China (mainland-born)
- Colombia
- Dominican Republic
- El Salvador
- Haiti
- India
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Peru
- Philippines
- South Korea
- United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland) and its dependent territories
- Vietnam

People born in Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR and Taiwan can participate.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I APPLY?

After you submit a complete Electronic Diversity Visa Entry Form (E-DV Entry Form or DS-5501), online at www.dvlottery.state.gov, you will see a confirmation screen containing your name and a unique confirmation number. Print this confirmation screen for your records.

You may check the status of your DV-2018 entry through the Entrant Status Check on the E-DV website at www.dvlottery.state.gov starting May 2, 2017, until September 30, 2018. Entrant Status Check is the sole means by which the Department of State will notify you if you are selected, provide further instructions on your visa application, and notify you of your immigrant visa interview appointment date and time. In order to ensure the use of all available visas, the Department of State may use Entrant Status Check to notify additional selectees after May 2, 2017. Retain your confirmation number until September 30, 2018 in case of any updates.

You can learn whether you were selected **only** by visiting the official www.dvlottery.state.gov website and entering your confirmation number. The State Department does not notify entrants by letter, e-mail, fax or telephone. The official E-DV website is the only legitimate source of lottery results. If your E-DV Entry Form is selected for processing, you will be eligible to submit your green card application during the 2018 fiscal year, which begins October 1, 2017.

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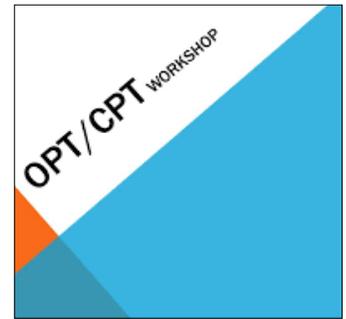
Daylight Savings Time Ends November 6th!

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour when you go to bed on Saturday night, November 5th, because Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 6th, at 2:00am.



Practical Training (OPT & CPT) Workshops

Thanks to those who attended our first Practical Training Workshop! We will continue to hold this workshop the first Friday of every block from **2:00 to 3:00 pm in Armstrong Conference Room 210**. Learn about the eligibility requirements, how to apply for authorization, and other information related to Curricular Practical Training (CPT) or Optional Practical Training (OPT). Mark your calendars for the two remaining dates in the Fall semester: **October 28 and December 2**.



Study Abroad (Physical Absence from the U.S.)

Are you planning to study abroad next semester? If your study abroad experience is an authorized CC academic program, your term abroad will not count toward the 5-month physical absence from the U.S. threshold. However, upon your re-entry to the U.S., you are required to have a valid F-1 or J-1 visa and a passport that is valid at least 6 months into the future. Please note that you will also need a valid travel endorsement signature on your Form I-20/Form DS-2019 to apply for re-entry to the U.S.

For more information about the study abroad opportunities that are available to you as a CC student, please visit the Office of International Programs website at:

<https://www.coloradocollege.edu/offices/international/off-campus-study/>



Reminders for December 2016 Graduates

If you will be **COMPLETING** your degree at CC by the end of the Fall 2016 semester, **CONGRATULATIONS!**

As you finish up, please remember:

- If you are an F-1 student, you must:
 - ⇒ depart the United States; OR
 - ⇒ request a transfer to another school; OR
 - ⇒ apply for Optional Practical Training (OPT); OR
 - ⇒ apply for a change of your nonimmigrant status
- **within 60 days** of your program completion date*.
- OPT applications and change of status applications must be received by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) no later than 60 days after your program completion date. For more information about how to apply for OPT or how to apply for a change of nonimmigrant status, schedule an advising appointment with Lisa Kosiewicz Doran, International Student Specialist, or Donna Beziou, International Student & Scholar Assistant, by calling (719) 227-8282 or emailing us at ISS@ColoradoCollege.edu.
- Your on-campus employment authorization expires as of your program completion date*. In order to continue working on-campus at CC, you would have to be authorized for OPT and your job would have to be directly related to your field of study (major) at CC.

*"Program completion date" = the program end date indicated on your current Form I-20 (Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status) OR the end date of your final semester at CC OR the date on which you complete all requirements for graduation at CC as a registered student, including the filing of a thesis, whichever is **EARLIEST**.



Graduating in December 2016? Be aware of what options you have as an F-1 student after you complete your studies at CC!

**International Student Services Drop-In Advising Hours: Armstrong Hall 2nd Floor
1:30 PM—4:00 PM, Monday through Friday**



Regulatory Resources and Updates

Visa Revocation for Drinking and Driving



The U.S. Department of State requires consular offices to prudentially revoke (i.e., without making a determination that the individual is inadmissible) nonimmigrant visas of individuals arrested for, or convicted of, driving under the influence (DUI) or driving while intoxicated, or similar arrests/convictions, that occurred within the previous five years, as detailed in [9 FAM 403.11-3\(A\)](#). This requirement does not apply to other alcohol related arrests such as public intoxication that do not involve the operation of a vehicle.

The Department of State's prudential revocations reflect that, after visa issuance, new or additional information calls into question the subject's continued eligibility for a visa. In cases of a DUI arrest/conviction, consular officers may prudentially revoke the visa of an individual even if he or she is physically present in the United States.

Per U.S. Department of State policy, driving under the influence indicates a possible visa ineligibility under INA 212(a)(1)(A)(iii) for a physical or mental disorder with associated harmful behavior that is likely to pose a threat to the property, safety, or welfare of the applicant or others in the future. See [INA 212\(a\)\(1\)\(A\)\(iii\)](#) for specifics on this law.

Upcoming OIP Activities and Events

SAVE THE DATE!: "Options After OPT" Visa Information Session
Wednesday, December 7, 2016
 4:00 p.m.—5:30 p.m. in Slocum Commons

The Office of International Programs invites international students to attend an informative presentation by a local immigration law firm about the U.S. visa options for working in the United States beyond Optional Practical Training (OPT). Information about the H-1B specialty occupation visa, as well as employment-based immigrant visas (aka "green cards"), will be presented. Sign-up for this information session at <http://tinyurl.com/AfterOPT>.



Aspen Hikes Near Colorado Springs

The autumn season in Colorado Springs bursts with color thanks to the beauty of our local aspen trees. These trees, which are known for their leaves that change from green to a colorful, bright yellow between mid-September and mid-October—the exact time of the change varies each year based on summer rainfall—are in plentiful supply in and around the city of Colorado Springs. For more information about scenic hikes that you can take to get a glimpse of the aspens, green or gold, around Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak region, see:

<http://www.visitcos.com/colorado-springs/travel/itineraries/aspen-hikes>

Halloween Is Almost Here!

Halloween is coming at the end of the month on October 31st! To learn more about Halloween traditions in the United States, check out the link below:

http://americanenglish.state.gov/files/ae/resource_files/halloween.pdf

Going to a Halloween costume party? There are many places to get a Halloween costume, but a good place to start is one of the many [Spirit Halloween stores](#) in Colorado Springs. Also, many people in the U.S. choose to create their own Halloween costumes using clothing and other accessories purchased at used clothing stores, such as [Goodwill](#) or [arc Thrift Stores](#).





Office of International Programs

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The Office of International Programs (OIP) serves students who study off-campus (domestically and internationally), incoming international students, faculty who lead students on off-campus programs, and international faculty who require immigration services.

OIP provides comprehensive services for degree-seeking international students and exchange students, including individualized immigration advising, specialized workshops, and orientation programs.

For more information, contact Lisa Kosiewicz Doran, International Student Specialist at ISS@ColoradoCollege.edu.

We're on the Web!

<http://www.coloradocollege.edu/offices/international/international-students/>

October Birthdays

The Office of International Programs would like to wish a very happy birthday to all the international students who are celebrating a birthday in October!

Mayss Al Alami

Shiyong Cheng

Camila Condon Rodriguez

Pan Gu

Isabel Gutierrez Papacostas

Qian (Alice) Huang

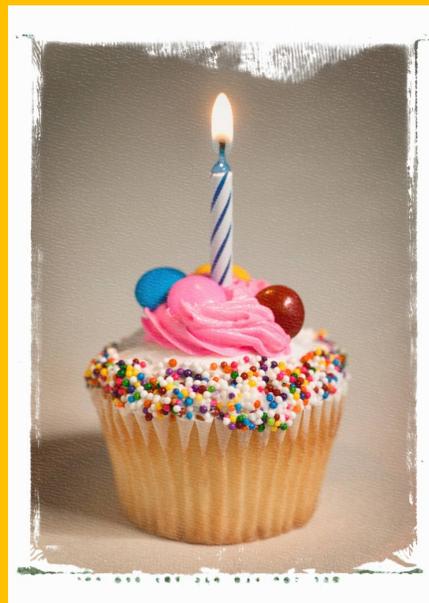
Qi Jin

Ryan Kwan

Christie Ma

Jeronimo Miranda

Eyner Roman Lopez



Tianzheng (Shane) Tu

Kexin Wang

Xinyue Wang

Lona Whitney

Qizhen Yang

Xiangmin Yang

Baran Yildiran

Peiheng Zhang

Tianran Zhang

Aiyu Zheng

Jiexin (Zoe) Zhou