

U.S.A

IMMIGRANT VISAS:

DIVERSITY VISA PROGRAM (GREEN CARD LOTTERY)
SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISAS FOR IRAQIS
U.S. REFUGEE ADMISSIONS PROGRAM (USRAP)

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U.S. VISAS

In order to enter to the territory of the United State you should **obtain a valid U.S. visa**. [What is U.S Visa?](#)

- **Visa is an endorsement that is placed within a passport that grants the holder official permission to enter, leave or stay in U.S. for a specified time period.**

There are two types of Visas that U.S. provides to the foreign citizens:

1. **Non - immigrant visas:** Non-immigrant visas are for foreign nationals wishing to enter the United States on a temporary basis - for **tourism, medical treatment, business, temporary work, study, or other similar reasons.**
2. **Immigrant visas:** Immigrant visas are issued to foreign nationals who intend to live permanently in the United States.

Immigrant visas (IV) programmes:

Diversity Visa Programme (green card lottery)

The Diversity Immigrant Visa Program (DV Program) makes up to 50,000 immigrant visas available annually, drawn from random selection among all entries to individuals who are from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States. The DV Program is administered by the U.S. Department of State (DOS).

Most lottery winners reside outside the United States and immigrate through consular processing and issuance of an immigrant visa. To learn more, visit the U.S. Department of State's website.

There is a limited period of time during which you can register for the Diversity Immigrant Visa (DV) Program during each fiscal year. Each year, the Department of State publishes [detailed instructions for entering the DV Program](#). These instructions include the dates of the registration period during which you will be able to enter.

All entries must be submitted electronically on the [Electronic Diversity Visa \(E-DV\) website](#) during the specified registration period. No late entries or paper entries are accepted. The law allows only one entry by or for each person during each registration period. The Department of State uses sophisticated technology to detect multiple entries. If you submit more than one entry you will be disqualified. [This website does not become active for submitting an entry until the date and time specified on the DV Instructions webpage.](#)

Detailed guidance for completing the online entry form is included in the [DV Instructions](#).

After you submit a complete entry, you will see a confirmation screen containing your name and a unique confirmation number. Print this confirmation screen for your records. **It is extremely important that you retain your confirmation number.** It is the only way you can check the status of your entry, and you will need it to obtain further instructions or schedule an interview for a visa if you are selected.

There is no cost to register for the DV Program. You are strongly encouraged to complete the entry form yourself, without a "Visa Consultant," "Visa Agent," or other facilitator who offers to help. If somebody else helps you, you should be present when your entry is prepared so that you can provide

the correct answers to the questions and retain the confirmation page and your unique confirmation number.

If you have lost your confirmation number, you will not be able to check the status of your entry. U.S. State department will not be able to resend the confirmation number to you. **Please note: The Department of State will not mail notification letters or notify selectees by email. U.S. embassies and consulates will not provide a list of selectees. Entrant Status Check on the E-DV website is the ONLY means by which the Department of State notifies selectees of their selection.**

Entrants in the Diversity Visa 2023 program may check the status of their entries on the [E-DV](#) website from May 7, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

A graphic with a dark blue background. On the left, there is a close-up image of a blue visa stamp with the word 'VISA' in large, bold letters. Overlaid on this image is a dark blue box with the text 'DIVERSITY VISA 2024' in white. To the right of the image, the text 'DV-2024 REGISTRATION PERIOD' is written in large, white, bold letters. Below this, the registration dates are listed: 'October 5, 2022 at 12:00 PM (ET) through November 8, 2022 at 12:00 PM (ET)'. In the top right corner, there is a circular seal of the Department of State, United States of America.

DIVERSITY VISA
2024

**DV-2024
REGISTRATION
PERIOD**

October 5, 2022 at 12:00 PM (ET)
through November 8, 2022 at
12:00 PM (ET).

Selected entrants are encouraged to complete the online DS-260 application immediately to schedule an interview appointment at the appropriate U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

If your entry is selected, you will be directed to a confirmation page that will provide further instructions, including information on fees connected with immigration to the United States. Entrant Status Check is the ONLY means by which selectees are notified of their selection. The Department of State does not mail out notification letters or notify selectees by email, and U.S. Embassies and Consulates will not provide a list of selectees. Individuals who have not been selected also will be notified ONLY through Entrant Status Check. You are strongly encouraged to access Entrant Status Check yourself and not to rely on someone else to check and inform you.

See the Frequently Asked Questions at the end of the [DV Instructions](#) for further information about the selection process.

Special Immigration visas for Iraqis

Iraqi Translators/Interpreters

Iraqi and Afghan interpreters/translators who have worked directly with the United States armed forces or under Chief of Mission authority as a translator/interpreter for a period of at least 12 months and meet requirements. This classification has an annual numeric limitation of 50 visas. See Special Immigrant Visas for [Iraqi and Afghan Translators/Interpreters](#) for more information.

This Special Immigrant Visa program is available to persons who worked with the U.S. Armed Forces or under Chief of Mission authority as a translator or interpreter in Iraq. This program, which offers visas to up to fifty persons a year, remains active.

You may apply for this program if you meet all of the following requirements:

- You must be a national of Iraq; and
- You must have worked directly with the U.S. Armed Forces or under COM authority as a translator or interpreter for a period of at least 12 months; and
- You must have obtained a favourable written recommendation from a General or Flag Officer in the chain of command of the U.S. Armed Forces unit that was supported by you, as a translator or interpreter, or from the Chief of Mission from the embassy where you worked.

Note: You should NOT make any travel arrangements, sell property, or give up employment until and unless you are issued a U.S. visa.

STEP 1 – Submit Petition

The first step toward applying for SIV status is to file a petition with USCIS. You must submit the following package of documents directly to the USCIS Nebraska Service Center:

- A completed [Form I-360, Petition for Amerasian, Widow\(er\), or Special Immigrant](#). [NOTE: To be properly filed, the Form I-360 must include your original signature.]
- A copy of your passport or nationality/birth certificate showing that you are a national of Iraq or Afghanistan, along with a certified English translation, if the document is not in English.
- Proof that you worked as a translator/interpreter with the U.S. Armed Forces or under Chief of Mission (COM) authority for at least 12 months.
- Proof of a background check and screening by the U.S. Armed Forces or the COM.
- A recommendation letter from a General or Flag Officer in the chain of command of the unit you supported as a translator/interpreter, or from the COM at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad or Kabul.
- Payment for filing the petition.

To learn more about USCIS and to access forms and instructions, please click [here](#).

STEP 2 – NVC Processing

After USCIS approves your petition, they will transfer your case to the Department of State's National Visa Center (NVC) for pre-processing. The first step in this processing is the creation of your case in our system. Once this is complete, we will send you a Welcome Letter by e-mail. With the information in this letter, you can log in to our Consular Electronic Application Center (CEAC) to complete your

Application for Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration (Form DS-260) and submit your supporting documents.

Once you submit forms and supporting documents to NVC, we will review your case to ensure you provided all the documentation required to schedule the immigrant visa interview. Interviews are based on the availability of appointments offered at the Embassy/Consulate.

You must provide an email address to facilitate communication with NVC. You may contact NVC by email at NVCSIV@state.gov.

Important Notice: Termination of Registration:

Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) section 203(g) provides that the “Secretary of State shall terminate the registration (petition) of any alien who fails to apply for an immigrant visa within one year” of notice of visa availability. The petition may be reinstated if, within two years of notice of visa availability, the alien establishes that the “failure to apply was for reasons beyond the alien’s control.” Therefore, if you do not respond to notices from NVC within one year you risk termination of your petition under this section of law and would lose the benefits of that petition, such as your priority date.

If you believe that you have an approved petition, but you have not been contacted by NVC, or you have questions about your pending SIV case after the petition has been approved, please email NVC at NVCSIV@state.gov or call 1-603-334-0828 and provide your U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) receipt number, full name, and date of birth. Customer Service Representatives at NVC are available from 7:30 a.m. to midnight (EST).

Step 3 – Complete Online Visa Application (DS-260)

After receiving your NVC Welcome Letter, you and each qualified family member immigrating with you must complete the Application for Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration (Form DS-260). You may wish to preview a sample [DS-260 \(PDF - 13.9 MB\)](#) before beginning.

To complete your Application for Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration, log into your case in [CEAC](#) and click the ‘START NOW’ under IV Application on your summary page.

Submitting Form DS-260 does not formally execute a visa application. The visa application is not formally made until the visa applicant(s) is interviewed by a U.S. consular officer.

After submitting Form DS-260 online, you must print the confirmation page and bring it to your interview. You can print this from [CEAC](#) any time after you complete your DS-260 application.

STEP 4 – Collect Documents

After you complete your DS-260(s), you and each family member immigrating with you MUST collect the civil documents required to support your visa application.

Your civil documents MUST be issued by the official issuing authority in your country. Please refer to the [Document Finder](#) to learn about the civil document requirements for each country.

Please note that all documents not written in English, or in the official language of the country from which you are applying, must be accompanied by certified translations. The translation must include a statement signed by the translator stating that:

- The translation is accurate, and
- The translator is competent to translate.

Important Notice on Missing Documents: If a required document is unavailable per the [country-specific guidelines](#), you do not need to scan the document into your CEAC. However, if you cannot obtain a required document for another reason, you must submit a detailed written explanation to NVC when you scan your other documents. During your visa interview, the consular officer will determine whether you must obtain the missing document before a visa can be issued. As a general rule, any document

that is listed as “available” on the [country-specific guidelines](#) must be reviewed by a consular officer. Failure to obtain all required documents will delay your case.

Iraqi applicants must collect:

- A copy of the biodata page from the passport of each applicant. You should obtain an A or G series Iraqi passport because only A or G series passports are valid for travel to the United States.
- Family Book (Copy of Entry 1957) and scanned copies of a birth certificate for each applicant and any other civil documents showing the relationship between you and your spouse and/or minor children (e.g., marriage and divorce certificates, adoption decrees, etc.). If no birth certificate is available, the Iraqi national identity card (bataqa shaksiya) may be used instead of a birth certificate;
- Police certificate from Iraq if you have lived in Iraq for at least six months since reaching age 16. If you have lived in a different country for more than 12 months since reaching age 16, then you need to submit a police certificate from the authorities of that locality. See additional information how to obtain a [police certificate](#).
- A completed [Refugee Benefits Election Form \(PDF - 364 KB\)](#). Please refer to our Frequently Asked Questions[DRM1] for more information resettlement benefits;
- A completed [DS-0234, Special Immigrant Visa Biodata Form \(PDF - 312 KB\)](#) for each family member immigrating with you.

STEP 5 – Scan Collected Documents

Once you have collected all the necessary documents, you must scan and save them.

In order to scan your documents, you will need access to a computer and scanner or a smartphone with an internet connection. Note: If you choose to use a public computer, be sure to delete your scanned documents once you have finished uploading them.

In order to ensure your case does not experience delays in processing, follow these guidelines when scanning your documents:

Requirements:

Single File Size and Type

Acceptable file types include .pdf (preferred) .jpg, and .jpeg

Each individual file (scanned document) must be no larger than 4 MB (megabytes).

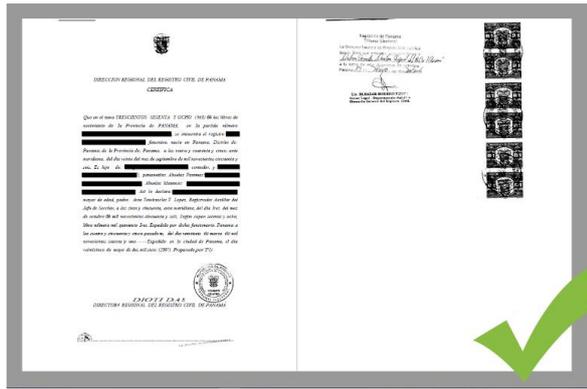
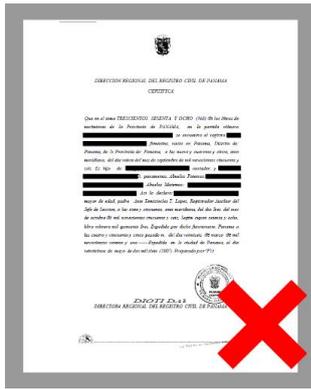
Scan your multiple page documents, such as your letter of recommendation, as one file. If the document size is more than 2 MB, compress the file.

“Zipped” files, modifiable PDFs, or password-protected files will not be accepted.

Image Quality

Your scans must:

Include the front and back side of any document that has stamps, seals, or writing on the back.



Include a certified translation of your tazkera with your original (i.e. foreign language) document in a single file.

Be clear, easily seen and read, and no parts of the document are cut off.



Oriented so it can be read across the screen without the need to rotate the document.



Most scanning programs offer a preview function so you can make sure the document is easily read. If you cannot read the scanned document, re-scan it at a higher resolution. Keep in mind this means the saved file will be larger and you may need to compress the file before you upload it.

Compressing a File

Compression means saving your document in a smaller file size. This not only allows the file to take up less space on your hard drive but also means it can be uploaded or e-mailed much faster. However, not all file types are easily compressed. Most computer operating systems include an option to compress a file. This option is often found under “File” or “Save,” or appears when you right-click on a file name in a navigation screen. Look on the “Help” tool in your computer operating system for more information on what is available to you.

There is also third-party compression software available, both at no cost and for purchase. Please remember, the Department of State cannot accept files that have been “zipped.”

STEP 6 – Submit Documents

After you have scanned all of the required documents, attach each scan to an email and send it to NVCSIV@state.gov. The email’s subject line must contain the case number provided on your Welcome Letter.

When you submit your application, you will receive an automatic response confirming the receipt. Please allow up to eight (8) weeks for your application to be reviewed by the National Visa Center (NVC).

Once NVC review your case, you will receive an email stating one of the following:

Corrections required	Documentarily Complete
<p>If NVC determines you did not submit the correct forms and/or documents, you will receive a notification requesting additional information and/or corrections to your documents. When you receive this email, follow the instructions to provide additional information or to correct documents. Once you have followed the instructions, you will need to reply to the email with the new documents to NVCSIV@state.gov. Do not change the subject line of the email.</p> <p>Please remember to follow the scanning requirements in Step 9 for your corrections.</p> <p>Important Notice on Missing Documents: If after reviewing the FAQs and you are unable to provide the NVC with the missing information requested, you must submit a detailed written explanation why to the NVC. The Kabul Chief of Mission Committee and Chief of Mission designee will review your case.</p>	<p>If NVC determines you have submitted the required immigrant visa application and supporting documents to NVC, you will receive an email that your case is documentarily complete. NVC will work with the appropriate U.S. Embassy or Consulate to schedule an appointment for you once a visa is available. NVC cannot predict when your case will be scheduled for an interview.</p> <p>The U.S. Embassy or Consulate General tells NVC what dates they are holding interviews, and NVC fills these appointments in a first-in, first-out manner.</p> <p>Important: the number of visas available for this category reverted to 50 annually.</p>

STEP 7 – Interview Steps

After the National Visa Center (NVC) schedules your visa interview appointment, they will send you an email noting the appointment date and time. **After you receive an interview Appointment Letter from NVC, you must take the following steps BEFORE the interview date.**

To continue to prepare yourself for your interview follow [Step 10: Prepare for Interview](#).

Once you have completed your preparations for your interview continue on to [Step 11: Applicant Interview](#) and [Step 12: After the Interview](#).

U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP)

The Office of Refugees & Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad coordinates the U.S. Government's policy, assistance, and resettlement programs for Iraqi displaced persons, conflict victims, and third country refugees within Iraq.

Policy and Assistance

The Embassy works directly with the Government of Iraq and international organizations such as UNHCR to address humanitarian needs of refugees, Iraqi refugees returning home, and internally displaced persons (IDPs). U.S. Government-funded programs support several hundred thousand displaced persons in Iraq through activities such as provision of emergency relief supplies, shelter construction, legal protection, water systems, emergency health, and infrastructure rehabilitation for host communities. The U.S. Government has provided over \$1 billion in humanitarian assistance for displaced Iraqis in Iraq and neighbouring states since 2003.

Refugee Admissions Program

The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) is a humanitarian effort that reflects America's compassion for some of the world's most vulnerable persons. A new path for accessing USRAP was established on January 28, 2008, allowing certain Iraqis with ties to the U.S. to qualify as refugees while still living in Iraq. Processing of such cases is currently underway in Baghdad, but is subject to security and logistical constraints. We encourage those who feel they are particularly vulnerable to process their cases outside of Iraq. Please contact [IOM](#) for information about this program or follow these links:

- [Eligibility Criteria](#) (PDF 272 KB)
- [How to Apply](#) (PDF 192 KB)

If it does not appear based on the information contained in the above links that the Iraqis in question qualify for access to the USRAP in Iraq, they may contact the [UNHCR](#) in a neighbouring country to apply for refugee status.

Information Library: Resources

- [FAQ about the Direct Access Program in Iraq](#) (PDF 236 KB)
- [Acknowledgment Form](#) (PDF 11 KB)
- [Resettlement Overview](#) (PDF 26 KB)
- [IOM Loan Note](#) (PDF 101 KB)
- [FAQ on Refugee Resettlement Benefits](#) (PDF 95 KB)
- [SIV & USRAP Comparison Chart](#) (PDF 108 KB)

Summary of Immigrant visas

The chart below contains different purposes for immigrating to the United States, and the related immigrant visa categories for which information is available on U.S. State Department website. Select a visa category below to learn more:

	Visa category
Immediate Relative & Family Sponsored	
Spouse of a U.S. Citizen	IR1, CR1
Spouse of a U.S. Citizen awaiting approval of an I-130 immigrant petition	K-3 *
Fiancé(e) to marry U.S. Citizen & live in U.S.	K-1 *
Intercountry Adoption of Orphan Children by U.S. Citizens	IR3, IH3, IR4, IH4
Certain Family Members of U.S. Citizens	IR2, CR2, IR5, F1, F3, F4
Certain Family Members of Lawful Permanent Residents	F2A, F2B
Employer Sponsored – Employment	
Employment-Based Immigrants, including (preference group):	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority workers [First] • Professionals Holding Advanced Degrees and Persons of Exceptional Ability [Second] • Professionals and Other Workers [Third] • Employment Creation/Investors [Fifth] • Certain Special Immigrants: [Fourth] 	E1 E2 E3, EW3 C5, T5, R5, I5 S (many**)
Religious Workers	SD, SR
Iraqi and Afghan Translators/Interpreters	SI
Iraqis Who Worked for/on Behalf of the U.S. Government	SQ
Other Immigrants	
Diversity Immigrant Visa	DV
Returning Resident	SB

Important Notes:

***K Visas** – Listed with immigrant visas because they are for immigration related purposes.

About this chart - This chart is a list of many immigrant visa categories, but not every immigrant visa category.

**Refer to the Foreign Affairs Manual, [9 FAM 502.1](#) for a listing of all immigrant visa categories.