



NIHisbNews Alert for October 5, 2005

Diversity Visa (DV) Lottery - 2007

Department of State (DOS) has announced the registration period for the 2007 Diversity Immigrant Visa Program (DV-2007), or Green Card lottery. Registration will begin today, October 5, 2005 and end on Sunday, December 4, 2005. Applications can only be submitted electronically; no other forms of submission, such as mail-in applications, will be accepted. Instructions and eligibility requirements are provided at this [link](#).

A DOS website has been set up for electronic registration [here](#). However, this website will not be active until noon (EST) on October 5, 2005.

REMINDER: DOS does not charge a fee to enter the DV lottery. A common scam is for imposter web sites or emails that charge a fee to process DV lottery applications. Scientists should always be wary of providing personal information and payment to questionable web sites or emails. Click [here](#) for information and warnings on imposter sites.

Increase in USCIS fees

USCIS announced an increase in fees for immigration applications, petitions and biometric services. In general, fees are being increased by about \$5-20. The new fees become effective October 26, 2005.

Current fees apply until October 25. Any applications or petitions mailed on October 26 or after are subject to the new fee. The impact to our most commonly used forms is:

I-129 for H, O and TN petition:

Current: \$185

New Rate: \$190

I-539 (for change of status and dependent use)

Current: \$195

New Rate: \$200

I-140 (used for immigrant petitions)

Current: \$190

New Rate: \$195

I-765 (used to obtain employment authorization document)

Current: \$175

New Rate: \$180

H-1B fraud fee

This is a reminder for the ICs to please **NOT** prepare a check for the H-1B fraud fee until you are specifically requested by your Team of Immigration Specialists or the H-

1B coordinator. The checks are time sensitive; once dated, are only valid for 60 days. If we are unable to file the H-1B petition within those 60 days, USCIS will reject the fee. Therefore, the ICs should wait until notified by DIS to cut the check. As a reminder, the check is for \$500, made payable to "Department of Homeland Security." The IC should consult with their administrative officer for procedures on obtaining checks. We understand that the SF 44 can be used to obtain the check.

Katrina

As noted in the customer alert of 9/7/05, DIS must be notified of any NIH-sponsored scientist who is deployed to the hurricane-affected states. In addition, DIS must be notified if any IC is hosting a foreign scientist displaced by the hurricane. If you are providing space, you still need to place that individual in an appropriate NIH designation (e.g. Special Volunteer, Guest Researcher, Visiting Fellow, etc.) A case must then be sent to DIS, as we must still follow both NIH and immigration procedures. Please work with your appropriate DIS team on these cases.

DIS Retreat

In order to review and improve our services, DIS will be holding a retreat for our staff on October 27 and 28. Due to this, we will not be available for walk-in advising hours on the afternoon of October 27; Enter-on-Duty (EOD)/check-in hours will also be cancelled on the morning of October 28. We will resume both services on Monday, October 31.

In the event of an emergency (e.g. Department of Homeland Security problem), notify DIS at our normal telephone number, 301-496-6166, and your message will be forwarded to us. In addition, you can also email us at zapatac@mail.nih.gov or powersa@mail.nih.gov.