

HOW TO LEGALLY WORK IN AMERICA



USAFIS Organization eBook Series

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HOW TO LEGALLY WORK IN AMERICA

2011 Edition

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USAFIS PRESS, 2576 Broadway #443, New York, NY 10025
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DISCLAIMER

How to Legally Work in America is a snapshot into different visa options available for foreign nationals to live and work in the United States. While it does not replace the expertise of immigration lawyers, it does provide the individual with the background of what is involved in these visa programs. The information contained in this guide should not be considered as legal advice.

Although the author and publisher believe the information in this book to be accurate on the date of its publication, the reader should be aware that immigration laws, regulations and procedures are constantly changing. It is up to the reader to make sure that the information is accurate and up to date. The author and publishers shall not be held liable for any damage suffered directly or indirectly due to the use of this guide.

INTRODUCTION

You are looking at the USA as an opportunity to make a better life. **How to Legally Work in America** will help you learn more about the different options available for you to legally live and work in the United States. This eBook is designed to give you an outline of different visa categories such as family-sponsored immigration; employment-based immigration, student visa and the Green Card Lottery.

Family-sponsored Immigration – The U.S. Congress recognizes the importance of family and has created ways for family members to be reunited with their relatives who are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents. If you have parents, siblings, or children living in the United States, they can sponsor you to come to the U.S.

Employment-based Immigration – If you do not have close family members who are U.S. citizens or who hold a Green Card, you may be able to obtain Green Card through a job offer from an American employer. There are many types of employment visas, but the H1B visa is the most popular one. We have dedicated a whole chapter to the details of getting this visa as well as top companies known to hire people through the H1B visa.

Student Visa - A possible indirect route in working in the USA is through a student visa. Generally speaking, one cannot have a job while attending an institution of higher learning on a student visa. However, one can begin the process of searching for employers willing to sponsor you after graduation. The likelihood of being hired by a U.S. employer during your stay in the states is much higher than trying it from your home country.

Green Card Lottery - You have the opportunity get one of 50,000 visas through the Green Card Lottery. All you need is a high school education or work experience along with coming from a qualifying country to enter the Lottery.

It is the only program that offers potential immigrants to bypass the requirement of family or employer sponsorship. It is the quickest way to get a Green Card.

Immigrants Create U.S. Jobs

In a major policy speech in June of 2011, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said that the government must increase U.S. immigration in order to repair and grow the U.S. economy. As reported in Politico.com, Bloomberg said, “We will not remain a global superpower if we continue to close our doors to people who want to come here to work hard, start businesses, and pursue the American dream.” He added, “The American Dream cannot survive if we keep telling the dreamers to go elsewhere.”

Bloomberg cited statistics that over 40 percent of the largest U.S. companies were started by immigrants or the children of immigrants. These figures are contained in a report from the [Partnership for a New American Economy](#), an organization that Bloomberg leads. This same report states that the major corporations of the future may be created beyond U.S. shores unless there is major reform of U.S. immigration laws.

The New York mayor said that immigrants and their children have been responsible for creating millions more jobs in all 50 states. “The reason is simple: immigrants are dreamers and risk-takers who are driven to succeed, because they know that in America, hard work and talent are rewarded like nowhere else”, Bloomberg remarked.

New York City can be an example to the rest of the nation, with over 40% of the 8.2 million that live in the city being immigrants and who have been a driving force to ensure the economic stability of this metropolis. Supporters of bringing in more immigrants to the United States, wish to reform the current system by increasing the number of employment visas, special programs to encourage foreign business people to start companies in the U.S. and allowing foreign students graduating from U.S. colleges to get a Green Card.

Immigration is America's great success story. For years, the U.S. has welcomed large numbers of immigrants, found productive employment for them and successfully included them into its population.

The American Dream

America has been very successful in attracting skilled immigrants. Many innovative and successful new American companies—Google, Intel, eBay, and countless others—have been built by recent immigrants.

According to a U.S. immigration report submitted by the Council on Foreign Relations, more than half of the recent growth in the U.S. labor force has come from immigration and nearly all the future growth will come either from immigrants or from current workers delaying retirement. “Unlike Japan and most of Europe, which face a steady decline in their working-age populations, America's high immigration rates, and relatively high birth rates among more recent immigrants, have lessen much of that decline” the report said.

The American dream remains a compelling ideal. Many people around the world believe fervently in the U.S. as a country where anyone, regardless of economic or cultural background, can start anew and succeed in building a better life. As the famous American pollster John Zogby said in testimony to Congress in March 8, 2007, “America still represents a beacon of hope.”

It is no wonder that America still attracts not only the brightest, most capable immigrants, but also many of the ambitious poor who see no opportunity for advancement in their own countries. For many in poorer countries, those who have braved the journey to reach the United States in an effort to make a better life and support their families at home are considered heroes.

Most immigrants come to the United States to work. They come here because wages, working conditions and the prospects for economic success are far superior to what they find in their own countries. This eBook will give you an overview of the options available to legally work in the USA and achieve your American Dream.

FAMILY-SPONSORED IMMIGRATION

Over 700,000 people have immigrated through family-sponsored immigration. Both U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents (LPR) can bring family members from other countries to live permanently in America. There is a difference between citizens and permanent residents regarding which family members can be sponsored to be brought into the USA.

U.S. Citizen	Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spouse • Children • Parents • Brothers/Sisters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spouse • Unmarried children

Both U.S. citizens and permanent residents cannot sponsor distant family members, such as, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

U.S. citizens have an added advantage of bringing certain immediate relatives – spouse, unmarried minor children and parents - to America. There is no ceiling on the number of immigrant visas allotted for these immediate relatives. In fact, 500,000 immigrants are processed each year through this family-sponsor immigration option. The authorizations of these visas are quickly processed.

Brothers, sisters, unmarried and married adult children of U.S. citizens as well as all immediate relatives of a permanent resident are subjected to visa allotments and waiting times. These immigrants fall into the “family preference system” which has been capped at 226,000 visas per year since 1990.

Category	U.S. Sponsor	Relationship	Visas Allocated
Immediate Relative	U.S. Citizen	Spouses, unmarried minor children, and (if the U.S. citizen is 21 years or older) parents	Not numerically limited (approximately 500,000 have been issued annually in recent years)
1st Preference	U.S. Citizen	Unmarried adult children (21 years or older) and their minor children	23,400 visas/year, plus any visas left from the 4 th preference
2nd A Preference	LPR	Spouses and minor children	87,900 visas year. Unused visas from the 1st preference may be added to the 2nd
2nd B Preference	U.S. Citizen	Unmarried adult children (21 years or older)	26,300 visas/year
3rd Preference	U.S. Citizen	Married adult children and their spouses and children	23,400 visas/year, plus any left over from the 1st and 2nd references
4th Preference	U.S. Citizen (21 years or older)	Brothers and sisters, and their spouses and minor children	65,000 visas/year, plus any left over from the previous preferences

Receiving a visa through family-sponsored immigration allows one to legally live and work in the USA. However, before an immigrant is granted a Green Card, an individual must submit information and documentation that is carefully checked by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), an agency within the Department of Homeland Security.

Application Requirements

The immigrant must report all places of residence and employment over the past five years. Information about parents, spouse, and children are also collected on the application form. The applicant must submit photos, a copy of his or her birth certificate and appear for fingerprinting. The fingerprints are checked against an FBI database and other government databases of persons with criminal records. In some cases, police clearances of the applicant's hometown must accompany the application. Finally, the immigrant must have a medical examination.

EMPLOYMENT-BASED VISAS

Employment-based visas are just one component of the U.S. visa system and comprise only seventeen percent of the visas issued for the United States. It has two broad categories—permanent and temporary visas.

	High-Skilled Workers	Low-Skilled Workers
Permanent Employment-Based Visas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual cap of 140,000 	Can include some employment-based visa holders admitted under the third preference (see chart below)
Temporary Employment-Based Visas	<p>H-1B Visas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual cap of 65,000 	<p>H-2A Visas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No annual cap Help fill the shortage of available domestic workers & seasonal agricultural jobs <p>H-2B Visas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual cap of 66,000 For non-agricultural workers

The U.S. government allocates 140,000 employment-based immigrant visas to qualified applicants. Employment based immigrant visas are divided into five preference categories.

Category	Visa Allocation
1st Preference	<p>40,000 visas for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Individuals of extraordinary ability in the sciences, arts, education, business or athletics; 2. Outstanding professors and researchers with at least three years experience in teaching or research and recognized internationally; and 3. Multinational managers or executives who have been employed for at least one of the three preceding years by the overseas affiliate, parent, subsidiary, or branch of a U.S. employer.
2nd Preference	40,000 visas for “members of the professions holding advanced degrees or aliens of exceptional ability.”
3rd Preference	40,000 to skilled workers, professionals, and other workers. The “other workers” category covers workers who are “capable of performing unskilled labor,” and who are not temporary or seasonal. Workers in this category are limited to 5,000 visas per year. Skilled workers must be capable of performing skilled labor requiring at least two years training or experience.
4th Preference	10,000 visas for certain special immigrants, including ministers, religious workers, and others.
5th Preference	10,000 visas for individuals who will invest between \$500,000 and \$1 million in a job-creating enterprise. At least ten U.S. workers must be employed by each investor.

Some immigrant visa preferences require you to already have a job offer from a U.S. employer. This employer will be considered your sponsor. For some visa categories, before the U.S. employer can submit an immigration petition to USCIS, the employer must obtain an approved labor certification from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). The DOL labor certification verifies the following:

- There are insufficient available, qualified, and willing U.S. workers to fill the position being offered at the prevailing wage
- Hiring a foreign worker will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of similarly employed U.S. workers

The next chapter deals with one of the most sought after employment visas -H1B. It allows U.S. employers to temporarily employ foreign professionals in specialty occupations for three years, extendable to six years, if U.S. citizens or residents are not available.

H1B (EMPLOYMENT) VISA

One of the most known employment visas is the H1-B, which are available to specially skilled and educated foreign nationals who have been offered a job by a U.S. employer. There is a quota on these visas; 45,000 for foreign workers, 20,000 for international students that graduate with a Master's or higher from a U.S. University.

A benefit of receiving a H1-B visa is that an applicant can receive a Green Card and legally live and work in the USA. In addition, the applicant can bring their spouse and children (under the age of 21) to live in the USA; however, they cannot legally work.

Requirements

Those wishing to apply for a H1-B visa to America need a U.S. employer to sponsor them. For employers to hire foreign professionals, the company needs to prove the following:

1. The position is in a specialty occupation;
2. The employee has the proper qualifications for the job;
3. The employee will be paid the current wage for the work being performed in this position; and
4. The employment of a foreign worker is not taking away work from U.S. workers.

The employer must file a petition with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) no more than six months before the start date of the job.

Most of these visas are available only on a limited basis. Therefore, it is important that you provide your sponsoring employer with all the necessary documents as soon as possible.

These documents include:

- Educational diplomas (High School, Associate, Bachelor, Master, PhD)
- College transcripts/academic records
- Certificate/diploma of training courses
- Evidence of license or professional membership (if applicable)
- Employment references (these must connect with information provided in one's CV/Resume)
- Current CV/Resume - detailing employment history including: name & address of employer, job title, month/year of beginning and ending of each job, type of business, duties performed, full/part time.
- Passport (including pages showing current or expired US Visas).

Typical Job Categories That Fall Under The H1b Visa

1. IT (Infrastructure Technology)
2. Computing
3. Finance & Accounting
4. Banking
5. Marketing
6. Advertising
7. PR,(Public Relations)
8. Sales
9. Recruiting IT (Infrastructure Technology)
10. Engineering (all types),
11. Teaching
12. HealthCare/Medical
13. Legal/Lawyers
14. Networking
15. Telecoms
16. Business
17. Management
18. Scientific Research

Top Five H1B Visa Friendly Companies

Our migration experts have discovered the top 5 U.S. companies that wish to bring the best and brightest from around the world to work in America. In addition, we have provided links to their job openings page so you can get a head start in researching which company and position you can apply for.

Microsoft - With nearly 90,000 employees, Microsoft is one of the most known software companies in the world. Besides creating consumer products such as the Zune and Xbox, Microsoft has made a presence on the Web with the MSN internet portal and Bing Search Engine. In 2009, they sponsored over 27,000 foreign nationals. Visit their [career page](#) and see what employment opportunities they have to offer.

Satyam Computer Services - With over 29,000 employees across 52 countries, Satyam Computer Services provides consulting, application development and infrastructure management to close to 500 global corporations. Headquartered in India, the company has offices in the USA, Europe, the Middle East, and the Asia-Pacific region. They sponsored almost 26,000 U.S. employment visas in 2009. Visit their [career page](#) to find out about positions that have available in the U.S.

IBM - Headquartered in New York, IBM is the largest technology and consulting employer in the world. They have over 400,000 employees serving clients in 170 countries. IBM invests more than 6 billion dollars a year in Research & Development and 5 U.S. National Medals of Science. They sponsored over 13,000 visas for foreign nationals. Visit IBM's [employment page](#), to explore what U.S. job opportunities are offered.

Oracle - With nearly 400,000 customers—including 100 of the Fortune 100, Oracle provides the world's most complete, open, and integrated business software and hardware systems. Recently, they acquired Sun Microsystems, putting them as the only vendor to offer a complete technology stack in which every layer is integrated to work together as a single system.

Recently, they acquired Sun Microsystems, putting them as the only vendor to offer a complete technology stack in which every layer is integrated to work together as a single system. They sponsored over 9,000 employment visas and you can visit their [career page](#) to find what job positions are opened.

Intel - Holding 80% of the market share for microprocessors that go into desktops, notebook computers, and computer servers, Intel is the #1 company in semiconductors. Personal computer giants Dell and Hewlett-Packard are the company's largest customers. They sponsored over 7,500 visas. Visit their [career page](#) and discover what employment opportunities are available.

STUDENT VISA

Each year, over 700,000 international students from around the world further their education in the USA. The American educational system exceeds other countries in the choice it offers:

- Types of institutions
- Academic and social environments
- Entry requirements
- Degree programs
- Subjects in which to specialize

This is another way to legally live in the USA and also have the opportunity to find an American employer to sponsor you after finishing your studies. Most foreign national who wish to study in the U.S. will seek an F-1 (non-immigrant) student visa, but there are other visa types such as the J-1 and M-1 that are sometimes authorized for those who study in the U.S.

F-1 - This is the most common student visa for those who wish to engage in academic studies in the United States. It is for people who want to study at an accredited U.S. college/university or to study English at a university or intensive English language institute

J-1 - This visa is known as an Exchange Visa for people who will be participating in an exchange visitor program in the U.S. The “J” visa is for educational and cultural exchange programs

M-1 - This student visa is for those who will be engaged in non-academic or vocational study/training at an institution in the U.S.

Visa Requirements

Before applying for a student visa, one must be accepted by a U.S. educational institution that is approved by the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP). Most U.S. institutions of higher education have received this approval, but you should check the [list of approved schools](#) before moving on in the process.

The steps in becoming an international student after you have been accepted by a U.S. approved institution are:

- Receiving either an I-20 or DS-2019 from the U.S. institution or program
- Paying the SEVIS fee
- Applying for the visa at your local U.S. embassy or consulate
- Entering the U.S. within the designated time frame
- Visiting your institution's office that handles international students upon arrival

Please note that most U.S. institutions do not give grants or scholarships for international students. Therefore, you will have to prove that you are able to finance your stay in the U.S. when registering to the school.

U.S. Embassy/Consulate Requirements

Once you meet the admission and financial requirements, the school will mail an I-20 for F-1 visa or DS-2019 for a J-1 visa, depending upon the program you are applying for. Afterward, you will apply for a student visa at your local U.S. embassy or consulate. The application process includes a short interview in English, the application form [DS-156](#) or I-60 and an application fee (in addition to the SEVIS fee).

When meeting with a U.S. Consul, bring your letter of admission, financial documentation, SEVIS I-20 or DS-2019, SEVIS fee receipt and passport to the interview.

Once your application is approved, an F1 or J1 visa will be stamped in your passport. Entering America, you may be required to go through an electronic fingerprinting and photographed as part of U.S. governmental security procedures.

College tuition can be a little expensive in America. However, our immigration experts have found excellent colleges and universities that range from \$9,000-16,000 for an academic year.

Educational Institutions Under \$16,000

	Yearly Tuition
<p>California State University-Long Beach 1250 Bellflower Boulevard, Long Beach, CA 90840 Admissions: 562-985-5471</p>	\$9,000
<p>Tennessee Technological University PO Box 5006, Cookeville, TN 38505 Admissions: 931-372-3888</p>	\$11,600
<p>New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology Campus Station, 801 Leroy Place, Socorro, NM 87801 Admissions: 575-835-5424</p>	\$12,000
<p>State University of NY - Binghamton University PO Box 6001, Binghamton, NY 13902-6001 Admissions: 607-777-2171</p>	\$13,000
<p>Truman State University 100 E. Normal, Kirksville, MO 63501 Admissions: 660-785-4114</p>	\$13,000

	Yearly Tuition
Louisiana State University 11146 Pleasant Hall, Baton Rouge, LA 70803 Admissions: 225-578-1175	\$14,400
Brigham Young University A-153 ASB, Provo, UT 84602-1110 Admissions: 801-422-2507	\$15,000
Hunter College - City University of NY 695 Park Ave, Room N203, New York, NY 10065 Admissions: 212-772-4490	\$15,000
Salisbury University Admissions Office, 1101 Camden Avenue, Salisbury, MD 2180 Admissions: 410-543-6161	\$15,000
University of Utah 201 South 1460 East, Room 250S, Salt Lake City, UT 84112 Admissions: 801-581-7281	\$15,000
The University of North Carolina at Asheville One University Heights, Asheville, NC 28804-8502 Admissions: 828-251-6481	\$15,500
University of Alabama 301 Sparkman Dr., Huntsville, AL 35899 Admissions: 256-824-6070	\$16,000

M-1 Visa

International students who are coming to the US to pursue a full-time course of study at a SEVP approved vocational or nonacademic school should apply for a M-1 visa. Typical institutions that accept M-1 visa students include community and junior colleges that provide vocational and technical training, vocational high schools and other schools that provide nonacademic training, other than English language instruction.

At community and junior colleges, a full course of study is defined as at least 12 semester hours of instruction per academic term, except in cases where the student requires fewer hours to complete the course of study. At other postsecondary schools, a full course of study consists of 12 hours of study per week. In vocational and nonacademic programs, a full course of study must consist of at least 18 hours of study per week if classroom instruction is the dominant part of the course, or 22 hours of study per week if the dominant part of the course is in the laboratory or workshop. In vocational and nonacademic high schools, a full course of study is the minimum hours the school sets for progress towards graduation.

Generally, students receive a M-1 Visa for one year or for the amount of time required to complete the course of study. They are also given a 30 days grace period in which they need to leave the USA after completion of the course. M-1 students are not authorized to work on or off campus employment. They are, however, allowed to participate in practical training following the completion of their course of study.

GREEN CARD LOTTERY

For over 20 years, the U.S. government has granted 50,000 visas through the Green Card Lottery. America is the only country that holds a lottery like this; with minimum requirements to enter the program: (1) to be from a qualifying country; and (2) have high school education or two years of work experience. Other American permanent visas require family or employment sponsorship. The Lottery is the quickest way to get a Green Card without the need of sponsorship.

The official name of the Green Card Lottery program is the Diversity Visa Program (DV). The intention of the program is to make America more diversified, which means a balance of different ethnicities joining into the melting pot of America. Before 1965, many of the U.S. immigration laws favored Northern European immigration. However, the United States Congress decided to give this opportunity to relatives of American citizens or permanent residents, regardless of origin, and soon afterward, Asians, Africans, and Latin Americans began arriving in record numbers. Several lottery programs were created during the 1980s. However, Congress decided in the mid 1990s that the Green Card Lottery should cover the whole world-except those countries thought to be overrepresented in the immigrant pool.

Green Card Eligibility Requirements

The Green Card Lottery is the quickest way to legally live and work in the USA. It requires no family or employer sponsorship. Green Card Lottery eligibility is based upon:

- Native of a qualifying country
- High school education or its equivalent
- OR, have two years of training or experience in a skilled profession or trade within the past 5 years. The occupation must require at least two years of training or experience to qualify.

An applicant should never submit more than one application to the Green Card Lottery per year. However, if one's spouse meets the requirements, then he or she can apply to the program as well. Therefore, a married couple, each year, can have two separate registrations, thus doubling the chances of winning the Lottery.

A child under the age of 21 who meets the educational and work experience requirements can also apply to the Green Card Lottery and still appear as a dependent on each parent's application. However, if the child does win, he or she cannot sponsor the parents for permanent residency until after the completion of steps required in becoming a U.S. citizen.

Green Card Lottery Winner Benefits

If a person was selected in the Green Card Lottery, the winner's spouse and children, under the age of 21, can also receive a Green Card, giving them **the opportunity to legally live and work in the United States**. In addition, Green Card Lottery winners who receive a Green Card and live in the United States for 5 years can **apply for citizenship**.

U.S. Citizenship Benefits

In the past 10 years, more than 500,000 people became naturalized citizens of the United States, obtaining numerous rights, benefits and privileges, including the opportunity to vote in U.S. local, state and federal elections.

According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the basic requirements for becoming a U.S. citizen through naturalization include being at least 18 years old; being a permanent resident for five years (or less in some situations); being a person of good moral character (i.e., no legal trouble); having a basic knowledge of U.S. history and government; and being able to read, write and speak basic English (with several exceptions to this last rule).

Immigrants seeking U.S. citizenship must pass the civics examination and take the Oath of Allegiance to complete the naturalization process. U.S. citizens gain the full protection of the U.S. Constitution. Benefits of becoming a U.S. citizen are:

- Receive a U.S. passport
- Travel outside the U.S for extended periods
- Petition for family members to immigrate to the U.S.
- Obtain citizenship for children born abroad
- Become eligible for federal jobs
- Run for elected office
- Serve on a federal jury
- Keep residency
- Eligible for federal grants and scholarships

WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU

The USAFIS mission is to make known the immigration opportunities that the United States has to offer; giving people the choice to make a better life for themselves and their families. Our company understands that it is the U.S. immigrant experience that can turn dreams into reality. Many people look at the USA and wonder - what if? Our goal is to change that question into - why not?

USAFIS Service

The first phase of entering the Green Card Lottery is submitting an application. However, many are automatically disqualified for not following the application's government requirements. To have the opportunity to win, give yourself the best chance possible by using an application review service that guarantees Green Card Lottery entry. Its services include:

- An error free application
- Transforming the application in an electronic format
- Submission of the application in a timely manner
- Send Green Card Lottery updates crucial to the application process
- Clients selected by the program are notified by phone, fax and email (the U.S. government no longer send Winners' notifications)
- Once selected, clients are put in contact with immigration lawyers who can guide them in dealing with U.S. embassy officials and government documents.

Why Use An Application Review Provider?

One can always apply to the Green Card Lottery via the government's website. It is suggested to use the services of an application review provider:

- If English is not a native language
- Have problems meeting deadlines
- Dislike in dealing with government forms
- A person who simply values their time

USAFIS promises that your application will be error free and follows the digital requirements outlined by the U.S. government. With over 10 years of Green Card Lottery application experience and trusted by millions from around the world, USAFIS has become the leader in the industry.

CONCLUSION

“Once I thought to write a history of the immigrants in America,” the historian Oscar Handlin writes in the preface of his classic *The Uprooted*. “Then I discovered that the immigrants were American history.” Today’s immigrants are more diverse - racially, culturally, and religiously than those who came before them.

*“Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me:
I lift my lamp beside the golden door.”*

These words, carved on the Statue of Liberty in New York, reflect the unequivocal commitment that the United States of America is to be a home for immigrants. Millions upon millions of individuals have come to the USA to have the opportunity to make a better life. It did not matter if you were rich or poor, white or black, Christians or Muslim – all entered the Golden Door and built new homes in the land of the free.

While the first waves of mass-immigration to the U.S. in the 19th century consisted mostly of Europeans seeking to flee the “old continent”, the 20th century brought to America no less than 25 million immigrants from Latin America and Asia. As a result, over 300 languages are spoken and every religion is represented in America.

According to recent estimates, America today is home for no less than 30 million foreign-born and for another 30 million children to foreign-born immigrants (‘second-generation immigrants’). Together their number sum up to more than 20 percent of the total U.S. Population.

Why do so many want to come to America's shores? America is the ultimate portrayal of freedom. The thing that is so great about the U.S is that it willingly allows immigrants to come through its borders and take part in a society that pursues life, liberty and happiness!

Name one country that is willing to offer different visa opportunities as well as a lottery so others can legally become part of its society? This sort of thing happens only in the United States!

Not that long ago, people from other countries looked at the Statute of Liberty and wondered "what if..?" Now, you have read the different options to come to the United States. The question remains - "**why not?!**"