

# The International Student Network

Diverse Voices, Shared Experiences: A Monthly Newsletter from OIP

## Diversity Visa Program

In **visa news**, just a quick announcement that applications for the **Diversity Visa Program** (also known as the **Diversity Lottery**) are open through **November 5th at noon (DV-2026)**. This program makes 55,000 legal permanent resident (green card) visas available each year to nationals from countries with low rates of immigration to the U.S. Some restrictions may apply, so please read the information carefully and consult with an immigration attorney if your application is chosen in the lottery and you decide to apply for the green card. **The first step is free and the official application is found on the U.S. Department of State website** (with more detailed instructions [here](#)).

## 2026 DIVERSITY VISA (DV) PROGRAM INSTRUCTIONS

U.S. Department of State | Bureau of Consular Affairs



Follow the steps below to complete your Diversity Visa Program entry. Read the full instructions carefully prior to starting your application at [dvsprogram.state.gov](https://dvsprogram.state.gov).

**1 READ THE DV-2026 INSTRUCTIONS**  
DV-2026 Instructions can be found at [travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov).

**2 FILL OUT & SUBMIT ENTRY**  
Enter between 12PM (EDT) on October 2, 2024 and 12 PM (EST) on November 5, 2024. Applications can be submitted online at [dvsprogram.state.gov](https://dvsprogram.state.gov). If your name is selected more than once per season, you will be disqualified.

**3 KEEP YOUR CONFIRMATION NUMBER**  
Make sure you keep the confirmation number at the end of your entry and don't share it with anyone.

**4 ENTRANT STATUS CHECK**  
Starting May 3, 2025, use your confirmation number to determine whether you have been selected via Entrant Status Check, available at [dvsprogram.state.gov/ESC](https://dvsprogram.state.gov/ESC).

**5 COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION**  
If selected, follow the instructions at [dvsselectee.state.gov](https://dvsselectee.state.gov) to submit the DS-260 Immigrant Visa application form for you and your accompanying family members. No supporting documents are required at this stage.

**6 INTERVIEW PROCESS**  
Selected individuals who follow the instructions and submit a DS-260 will receive notifications to check the Entrant Status Check if an appointment is scheduled. All required documents will be collected at the interview.

**TIPS:**  
Avoid Fraud & Scams: Some websites and emails try to mislead customers into thinking they are official U.S. government websites. Do your own application: The online entry application is simple and free of charge. Follow the rules: Read the application instructions carefully to avoid disqualification at [dvsprogram.state.gov](https://dvsprogram.state.gov).

travel.state.gov

## Fall Break Trip Recap!

Over Fall Break this year, OIP teamed up with the HIPR department to offer a day trip to Greensboro, NC. We took the opportunity to adventure with zero cars, using **GoRaleigh's new Route 9 (check it out!)** to get from campus to Union Station, the Amtrak train to get from Raleigh to Greensboro.

"At first, we all thought the train station didn't feel like a typical U.S. place — it was pretty quiet with not too many people around. When we arrived, we visited the **International Civil Rights Center & Museum** where we learned more about the era of segregation post-Civil War. We listened to stories and saw historical objects that are often left out of the books. The tour was long, but we had fun and were shocked to find out that the train station hasn't changed much since then. You can still see certain remnants from the segregation period. For dinner, we ended up at a Peruvian restaurant. Being from a neighboring



In picture, from left, Bruktawit Adamou, Nafissa Bia, Christina Dunkerley, Ana Osipovi, Javi Brito (and the train!)

country, I knew a lot about Peruvian cuisine, so I recommended different dishes for everyone to try. They were all delicious! Afterward, we got boba before heading back to the train station."  
- Javi Brito '25, Chile

## New series: Adulthood in the U.S.!

Adulthood is not fun for anyone, much less adulthood in a whole different country! This year, OIP will be offering a monthly gathering for international students to meet up, catch up, and tackle various topics that may not be fun but certainly are important (don't worry, we'll bring pizza so we can eat our feelings!!)

Our first meetup is coming up next week! On **Wednesday, October 30th at 4pm**, we'll kick off the series with **Health Insurance 101**, where we'll be joined by Leslie from International Student Insurance (ISI). Leslie will walk us through the essentials and answer all your health insurance questions!

**international Adulthood**

New monthly meetup for international students! These informal gatherings will include food (!) and a chance to learn about various topics that may not be fun, but are essential to adulthood in the U.S. - all with friends who feel your pain!  
First meetup.....

**What's a Deductible? Health Insurance 101!**

FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED!  
WEDNESDAY, OCT 30TH  
SMB 209  
4-5:15PM  
**RSVP**

**RSVP to reserve your spot and help us know how much pizza to order!**

If you're looking for an easy day trip from Raleigh, we'd recommend checking out the ICRCM sometime! It is located in the historic building in Greensboro where on February 1, 1960, four Black college students from North Carolina A&T State University played a pivotal role in the U.S.' Civil Rights Movement by purposefully sitting at a whites-only lunch counter. The students' non-violent direct action sparked the Sit-in Movement that quickly spread to other cities across the U.S.

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## Spring Internship Highlight

Toshiba Global Commerce Solutions (TGCS) posted their intern openings. Scan the QR Code below to check out the open positions! **TGCS SPONSORS INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS!**

Application Advice from Julia Orlidge, University Relations, Talent Acquisition at TCGS:



“**Apply early** and apply to **openings that match your qualifications**. Sometimes we see students apply to all/several roles (some don't even match their background). This doesn't look for candidates. You need to take your time applying and **carefully answer all application questions**.”

## Happening This Week:

Get ready for a night of thrills and chills! **MIA** is excited to invite you to our global **Murder Mystery** event on **Thursday, October 24th at 8 PM in the Art Building**.

Join us for some suspense, intrigue, scares and plenty of fun! It's the perfect opportunity to bring your friends and dive into a captivating storyline to keep you on the edge.



## Fave Study Hacks!

With the Academic Year in Full Swing, Exams are on the Rise! **Check Out Helpful Study Tips** from Students on How They Navigate the Pressure.

“Create a review sheet of key points and formulas. Make note of any mistakes or questions you got wrong so that you don't repeat them. Review past exam questions. It also depends on the course for example, for English edit and proofread with grammarly etc.” - **Amy Hill, 26' Trinidad & Tobago**

“I rewrite the important topics and set a time limit, like the next 2-3 hours, to study without any distractions such as screen time or anything else. If a topic is hard to understand, I pretend to be the teacher and explain it as if I'm teaching someone else.” - **Muntahin Maisha, 26' Bangladesh**

## November 'Save the Date's!

Mark your calendars! A few events are coming up in November that we would love to see you at! More details to come, but for now, please save these dates:

- MIA's annual **UN Dinner** will be held on **Wednesday, November 20th**, with a focus this year on **Sudan**
- **President Sapp** is hosting a special **Thanksgiving Lunch** for international students on **Wednesday, November 27th** - an invitation should be coming to your email soon!

## International Alumna Spotlight

“I am currently working as a People Analyst at an on-demand car care startup, Get Spiffy. I live in Durham, and since graduation, I've been focusing on my overall health by going on hikes whenever I can, eating healthy, and practicing yoga regularly. One thing I like about being done with school is not having to do assignments, but I really miss the consistent learning aspect of college. Looking back over the past two years and reflecting on everything I learned makes me truly appreciate my college experience.”



**Rashi Maheshwari '24, India**  
Master's in I/O Psychology  
People Analyst, Get Spiffy