STUDY NOTES · BASIC CONCEPT

What is a Green Card, How Do You Get It, and What is the Diversity Visa Lottery?

International Relations

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What is a Green Card

- — Permanent Residency of the United States
- — Allows long-term stay, legal work, and social security benefits
- — Enables eligibility for US citizenship after required years
- — Not automatic; granted only after legal screening

Main Conditions to Get a Green Card

Family-Based Route

- — Sponsored by US citizen (spouse, parent, minor child)
- — Or by Green Card holder (spouse, unmarried child)
- — Relationship must be legal and genuine
- — Sponsor must show financial support

Employment-Based Route

- — Valid job offer from a US employer
- — Employer sponsorship required
- — PERM Labour Certification in most cases

— Categories:

1. EB-1: Extraordinary ability
2. EB-2: Advanced degree / exceptional ability
3. EB-3: Skilled workers

Student → Job → Green Card

- — Entry on F-1 Student Visa
- — Work via OPT, then H-1B
- — Employer files Green Card
- — Long backlog for Indians due to country caps

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Investment-Based Route (EB-5)

- — Investment of $800,000–$1.05 million
- — Creation of at least 10 US jobs
- — Faster but capital-intensive option

What is the Diversity Visa Lottery

- — Lottery-based Green Card system
- — Around 55,000 Green Cards issued annually
- — Random selection, no job or family sponsor needed
- — Run by US Department of State

Eligibility

- — Only citizens of low-immigration countries
- — Minimum high school education or skilled work experience
- — India usually not eligible

Why DV Lottery Hardly Affects Indians

- — India already has high migration to the US
- — Indians mainly use employment and student routes
- — India’s share in DV Lottery is near zero
- — Changes or bans have minimal impact

General Eligibility Rules (All Routes)

- — Clean criminal background
- — Medical examination clearance
- — No fake documents or immigration fraud
- — No national security risk

Green Card Process (At a Glance)

- — Choose correct category
- — File application with documents
- — Background and medical checks
- — Interview and approval
- — Permanent Residency granted

Conclusion

- — Green Card = permanent legal life in the US

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- — Achieved through family, skills, job, or investment
- — DV Lottery is luck-based and largely irrelevant for Indians

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