

# South Asian and Undocumented?

## DACA Guide for South Asian Undocumented Youth

**Among the 11 million undocumented people living in this country are South Asians, including those from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.**

Many are students who seek to go to college, spend time with friends and family, and pursue their professional interests. In fact, there were approximately 240,000 undocumented Indians in 2011 alone, making India the seventh highest country of origin for undocumented individuals in the United States. **If you are undocumented and South Asian, you might be eligible for assistance under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy. Read more below, and share with your family and friends.**

### What is DACA?

**Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals is a policy directive allowing undocumented youth relief from deportation (known as "deferred action"), for a specified period of time, if certain eligibility criteria is satisfied.**

**It is available for a two year renewable period and you can apply for employment authorization.**

**It does not mean you can get a green card or citizenship.**

### Am I Eligible?

**Yes, if you meet the following criteria:**

- Did you come to the U.S. before reaching your 16th birthday?
- Were you under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012?
- Have you continuously resided in the U.S. since June 15, 2007, were living in the U.S. on June 15, 2012, and are living in the U.S. at the time of application?
- Did you enter the U.S. without inspection before June 15, 2012, or your lawful immigration status expired on or before June 15, 2012?
- Are you currently enrolled in school; have graduated with an associates or bachelors degree; have graduated from High School; have obtained a GED; or have been honorably discharged from the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States?
- Have you NOT been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, or three or more misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety?

### How Does DACA Benefit Me?

Provides you with temporary relief from deportation for two years and can be renewed every two years unless terminated

You can receive a work permit for two years

You can stop accruing unlawful presence

### How Do I Apply For DACA?

1 Get legal advice before applying!

2 Complete USCIS Forms I-821D, I-765 and I-765WS and submit documents as evidence that you meet the eligibility criteria, along with a fee of \$465 for the work permit and fingerprint requirement

Visit [www.uscis.gov/childhoodarrivals](http://www.uscis.gov/childhoodarrivals) for further details on how and where to submit your application.

### Where Can I Get Further Help With DACA?

**For further help and resources, please visit or contact the following organizations:**

Asian American Center for Advancing Justice [advancingjustice.org](http://advancingjustice.org)  
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund [aaldef.org](http://aaldef.org)  
American Immigration Lawyers Association [aila.org](http://aila.org)  
Asian Pacific American Legal Center [apalc.org](http://apalc.org)  
Asian Students Promoting Immigrant Rights Through Education [aspiredreamers.org](http://aspiredreamers.org)  
National Korean American Service & Education [nakasec.org](http://nakasec.org)  
Own the Dream [weownthedream.org](http://weownthedream.org)  
South Asian Americans Leading Together [saalt.org](http://saalt.org)  
United We Dream [unitedwedream.org](http://unitedwedream.org)

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