



# International Adoption Process

## Decide on a Country

FHSA has adoption programs in many different countries. Review the country information to determine your preferences and to see if you meet the country's requirements for adoption. We have Family Resource Coordinators that will help you in this stage.

## Apply to US-CIS

US-CIS stands for the United States Citizenship & Immigration Service (formerly INS). You will be required to file the I-600A (for non-Hague countries) or the I-800A (for Hague countries) with required documents to CIS. This is your CIS application requesting approval to bring a child into the US. Upon receipt, CIS will issue you a fingerprint appointment.

## The Home Study Process

US-CIS also requires a home study report as part of the application process. The home study is a narrative report completed by a home study provider in your state based on observation, interviews, clearances, and supportive documentation. If you are a Florida resident, FHSA will complete your home study.

## US-CIS Approval

If US-CIS approves your application, they will issue you a form (usually called an I-171H). This form shows that you are approved to proceed with the international adoption from your chosen country.

## The Dossier

A dossier is a compilation of documents required by the adopting country to comply with that country's adoption laws. The documents required and the way in which they are presented varies from country to country. A Program Coordinator will help you through this entire process.

## Your Referral

Receiving a referral means that your dossier has been matched with a child. The time it takes for this process can vary depending upon the age/gender requested and the process set up by the country. The referral usually includes a picture and medical summary along with any other available information.

## Travel

The length of time between referral and travel depends upon the requirements of the adopting country. You will need a passport and possibly a visa. A few countries allow escort service. Some countries require two trips.

## Welcome Home

Once home, it will be important to complete the post placement requirements as mandated by the adopting country and FHSA. FHSA also recommends completing a re-adoption in order to obtain a State birth certificate for your child.

*To begin your adoption journey, complete the application and send it along with the application fee to:*

*Florida Home Studies & Adoption, Inc.  
5930 Palmer Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34232.*