



Student Visa Guide Australia

Australian Student Visa Guide

Information for International Students

TYPES OF AUSTRALIAN STUDENT VISAS

1. Student Visa (Subclass 500)

- Definition: The primary visa for international students intending to study full-time in Australia at a registered institution
- Eligibility: Must have acceptance from an Australian educational institution and meet financial, English language, and health requirements
- Duration: Usually matches the length of your course plus an additional 1-3 months
- Benefits: Allows work for up to 48 hours per fortnight during term and unlimited hours during scheduled breaks

2. Student Guardian Visa (Subclass 590)

- Purpose: For parents or relatives who need to stay in Australia as the guardian of a student visa holder who is under 18
- Requirements: Must be nominated by the student's parents and meet health and character requirements
- Duration: Typically matches the student visa duration or until the student turns 18
- Restrictions: Limited work rights (40 hours per fortnight)

3. Temporary Graduate Visa (Subclass 485)

- Purpose: Allows graduates to work in Australia temporarily after completing their studies
- Streams:
 - Graduate Work Stream: For graduates with skills in occupations on the skilled occupation list (18 months)
 - Post-Study Work Stream: For bachelor's degree, master's or doctoral graduates (2-4 years depending on qualification level)
- Application: Must apply within 6 months of course completion
- Work Rights: Full unrestricted work rights

4. Training Visa (Subclass 407)

- Purpose: For those participating in workplace-based training to improve skills for their occupation, area of study, or field of research
- Duration: Up to 2 years based on the training program
- Requirements: Training must be workplace-based and nominated by an approved sponsor

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for an Australian Student Visa (Subclass 500), you must:

1. Have a confirmed enrollment in a course registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS)

2. Meet the Genuine Temporary Entrant (GTE) requirement

- Must demonstrate a genuine intention to stay in Australia temporarily for the purpose of study
- Assessment based on personal circumstances, potential circumstances in Australia, and value of course to future

3. Financial requirements

- Demonstrate access to:
 - Tuition fees for the first year of your course
 - Living costs (AU\$21,041 per year for the main applicant)
 - Additional funds for family members (AU\$7,362 for partner and AU\$3,152 per child annually)
 - School costs for any school-age dependents (approximately AU\$8,000 per year)
 - Return airfares for all family members

4. English language proficiency

- IELTS score of at least 5.5, or equivalent in TOEFL iBT, PTE Academic, CAE, or OET
- Higher requirements may be needed for specific courses or institutions
- Exemptions may apply for certain nationalities or previous study in English

5. Health insurance

- Must obtain Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the entire duration of stay
- Covers medical treatments, hospital care, and some prescription medications

6. Health requirements

- May need to undergo a medical examination depending on:
 - Country of origin
 - Length of stay
 - Intended activities in Australia
 - Any existing medical conditions

7. Character requirements

- Must provide police clearance certificates from all countries where you have lived for 12 months or more in the past 10 years
- No substantial criminal record

8. Valid passport with at least 6 months validity beyond planned stay

APPLICATION PROCESS

Step-by-Step Guide

1. **Receive a Confirmation of Enrollment (CoE) from an Australian educational institution**
 - Apply directly to the institution or through an education agent
 - Receive a Letter of Offer
 - Accept the offer and pay initial fees
 - Receive CoE (electronic document required for visa application)
2. **Create an ImmiAccount on the Department of Home Affairs website**
 - Register for a new account if you don't have one
 - Use your email address and create a secure password
3. **Gather required documents:**
 - Valid passport
 - Confirmation of Enrollment (CoE)
 - Proof of financial capacity
 - English language test results
 - Health insurance (OSHC) evidence
 - Statement addressing the Genuine Temporary Entrant (GTE) requirement
 - Academic documents from previous education
 - Identity documents
 - Additional documents based on your personal circumstances
4. **Complete online application form**
 - Log in to ImmiAccount
 - Start a new application for Student Visa (Subclass 500)
 - Fill in all required sections accurately
5. **Pay the visa application fee**
 - Base application charge: AU\$710 (subject to change)
 - Additional applicant charge for family members:
 - Over 18 years: AU\$530
 - Under 18 years: AU\$170
6. **Biometrics collection (if required)**
 - Attend an Australian Visa Application Centre (AVAC) or Australian Biometrics Collection Centre (ABCC)
 - Submit fingerprints and facial photograph
 - Requirements vary by country of residence
7. **Health examination**
 - Generate a Health Assessment Portal (HAP) ID through ImmiAccount
 - Book and attend a medical examination with an approved panel physician

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8. Attend an interview (if required)

- Some applicants may be asked to attend an interview at their nearest Australian embassy or consulate

9. Wait for processing

- Processing times vary (typically 4-8 weeks)
- Check application status through ImmiAccount
- Respond promptly to any requests for additional information

10. Visa grant notification

- If approved, you'll receive an electronic visa grant notification
- Australian visas are electronic and linked to your passport

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS CHECKLIST

Primary Documents

- Confirmation of Enrollment (CoE) from your Australian institution
- Valid passport (valid for at least 6 months beyond intended stay)
- Proof of financial capacity:
 - Bank statements for past 6 months showing sufficient funds
 - Loan documentation
 - Scholarship award letters
 - Financial undertaking by sponsor
 - Travel expense coverage
- Evidence of English language proficiency
- Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) arrangement

Supporting Documents

- Academic transcripts and certificates from previous education
- Personal statement addressing the GTE requirement
- Curriculum Vitae/Resume detailing education and work experience
- Proof of relationship for any accompanying family members
- Passport-sized photographs (meeting Australian requirements)
- Birth certificate or other identity documents
- Marriage certificate (if applicable)
- Guardianship arrangements (for students under 18)
- Evidence of employment history (if applicable)

Country-Specific Requirements

Processing times, document requirements, and assessment levels may vary based on your country of citizenship. Check the Department of Home Affairs website for country-specific requirements.

MAINTAINING STATUS & COMPLIANCE

Visa Conditions

As a student visa holder, you must:

- Maintain enrollment in a CRICOS-registered course

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- Maintain satisfactory course progress and attendance
- Maintain valid OSHC health insurance for the duration of your visa
- Notify your education provider of your address within 7 days of arrival and within 7 days of any change
- Maintain adequate financial capacity to support yourself and accompanying family members
- Do not work more than the permitted 48 hours per fortnight during term time
- Comply with all Australian laws

Work Limitations

- During term time:
 - Maximum 48 hours per fortnight (two-week period)
 - Restrictions begin after your course starts
- During scheduled breaks:
 - Unlimited work hours permitted
- Professional year program students:
 - Unlimited work hours if enrolled in a professional year program
- Doctoral and research master's students:
 - Unlimited work hours once course has commenced

HEALTHCARE & INSURANCE

- **Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)**
 - Mandatory for all international students (except specific exempt nationalities)
 - Duration must cover entire period of stay in Australia
 - Available from approved providers: Allianz Care, Bupa, Medibank, nib, AHM
- **Coverage Typically Includes:**
 - Out-of-hospital medical treatment
 - In-hospital medical treatment
 - Prescription medicines
 - Ambulance services (in emergencies)
 - Limited dental and optical benefits (varies by provider and package)
- **Additional Insurance Considerations:**
 - Travel insurance for journey to and from Australia
 - Contents insurance for personal belongings
 - Additional health coverage for services not included in basic OSHC
- **Health Support Services:**
 - Campus health services
 - Mental health resources
 - Emergency hospital treatment

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EXTENDING YOUR STAY

Student Visa Extension

- Apply online through ImmiAccount at least 2 months before current visa expires
- Required documents:
 - New Confirmation of Enrollment (CoE)
 - Updated proof of financial capacity
 - Renewed OSHC
 - Statement explaining reason for extension
 - Current academic transcripts

Transitioning to Other Visas

- Temporary Graduate Visa (Subclass 485)
 - Graduate Work Stream for skilled occupations
 - Post-Study Work Stream based on qualification level
 - Must apply within 6 months of course completion
- Skilled Migration Pathways:
 - General Skilled Migration programs
 - Employer Nomination Scheme
 - State/Territory Nominated visas
- Other Options:
 - Partner and Family visas
 - Business and Innovation visas
 - Regional visas with additional benefits

Pathway to Permanent Residency

- Complete Australian qualification (typically 2+ years of study)
- Apply for Temporary Graduate visa (subclass 485)
- Gain relevant work experience
- Apply for permanent residency through:
 - Skilled Independent visa (subclass 189)
 - Skilled Nominated visa (subclass 190)
 - Regional visas (subclass 491/494)

LIVING IN AUSTRALIA

Accommodation Options

- On-campus accommodation:
 - University dormitories/halls of residence
 - Residential colleges
 - Cost: AU\$200-700 per week
- Off-campus options:
 - Shared rentals: AU\$150-350 per week
 - Private rentals: AU\$250-800 per week
 - Homestay: AU\$250-350 per week
 - Purpose-built student accommodation: AU\$250-500 per week

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Transportation

- Public Transport:
 - Buses, trains, trams, and ferries in major cities
 - Student concession cards available in most states/territories
 - Weekly cost: AU\$30-60
- Rideshare and Taxis:
 - Uber, Ola, DiDi and traditional taxis available in all major cities
 - Higher cost than public transport
- Cycling:
 - Popular and affordable option in most cities
 - Bike-sharing schemes available

Banking & Finance

- Opening a Bank Account:
 - Can be done before arrival or within first few weeks
 - Major banks: Commonwealth Bank, Westpac, ANZ, NAB
 - Required documents: passport, CoE, student ID, address proof
- Managing Money:
 - Mobile banking apps widely used
 - EFTPOS (Electronic Funds Transfer at Point of Sale) common
 - Credit/debit cards accepted almost everywhere
 - Student banking packages with reduced fees often available

Communication

- Mobile Phones:
 - Major providers: Telstra, Optus, Vodafone
 - Prepaid options from AU\$10-30 per month
 - Postpaid plans from AU\$30-100 per month
- Internet:
 - University/campus Wi-Fi free for students
 - Home internet plans from AU\$50-100 per month
 - Internet cafes and public Wi-Fi available in urban areas

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Official Government Resources

- Department of Home Affairs: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au>
- Study Australia: <https://www.studyaustralia.gov.au>
- CRICOS: <https://cricos.education.gov.au>

Student Support Services

- Student support services at your institution
- International student associations
- State-specific international student support centers

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Emergency Contacts in Australia

- Emergency Services: 000 (Police, Fire, Ambulance)
- National Security Hotline: 1800 123 400
- Health Direct (24-hour health advice): 1800 022 222
- Lifeline (Crisis Support): 13 11 14
- Translating and Interpreting Service: 131 450

Legal Aid and Support

- Each state/territory has legal aid commissions offering free advice
- Fair Work Ombudsman for employment issues: 13 13 94
- Tenants' unions for accommodation advice

Additional Resources

- Insider Guides: <https://insiderguides.com.au>
- Study Move: <https://www.studymove.com>
- Australian Government's Cost of Living Calculator

Note: This guide is for informational purposes only. Requirements and procedures may change over time. Always verify current information with official sources before proceeding with your application.

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