



WELTBOURNE

05



STUDYING IN AUSTRALIA

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In this chapter you will find information about studying in Australia. There are a number of student visas available to anyone who wishes to study in Australia. The Australian Government has an Overseas Student Program (OSP) that allows people who are not Australian citizens or Australian permanent residents to study in Australia. Any person who is not an Australian resident may apply to study in Australia under the OSP. A person who wants to study under the program must obtain a student visa before they can commence a course of study in Australia.

You will be granted a student visa if you wish to undertake a registered course or part of a registered course on a full-time basis. A registered course is an education or training course offered by an Australian education provider who is registered with the Australian Government to offer courses to overseas students.

You can also apply to have eligible family members accompany you to Australia. Eligible family members include

- **Your spouse** - The person you are married to, or in a de facto (common law) relationship with. You are in a de facto relationship if you have been living with a person of the opposite sex for at least 12 months and you have a genuine and exclusive relationship with them

- **Dependent child** - The natural or adopted child, or step-child of you or your spouse who has not turned 18 and is not married or engaged to be married or in a de facto relationship.

The information in this chapter gives you an overview of the study visa options. For more detailed information on any of the student visas please refer to the website www.immi.gov.au

What are the financial requirements associated with applying for a student visa?

When applying for a student visa you will have to prove that you have enough money to pay for travel, tuition and living expenses for yourself, your spouse and your dependent children for the duration of your stay in Australia.

You must also have enough money to support your spouse and dependent children even if they do not travel with you to Australia. There are guidelines stating the minimum amounts required for this visa. They include travel, tuition and living expenses.

Travel

- You - Return air fare to Australia
- Family Members - 1 return air fare to Australia per person.

Tuition

- You - Course fees
- Children aged 5-18 - AUD \$8,000/€5,160 approx. per year (2007 figure).

Living expenses (2007 figures)

- You - AUD \$12,000/€7,740 approx. per year
- Spouse - AUD \$4,200/€2,710 approx. per year
- First child - AUD \$2,400/€1,550 approx. per year
- Each other child - AUD \$1,800/€1,165 approx. per year.

For more information or to calculate how much money you will need to study in Australia please see the website

www.immi.gov.au/students/students/cost-calculator/al1.htm

The money to support you and your family members may come from any source. If you are a fully funded student you must show evidence that the sponsoring agency, government or organisation will cover the cost of your travel, tuition and living expenses for you and dependent family members accompanying you to Australia and support your dependent family members remaining in your home country.

If any of your family members later decide to join you in Australia you must show evidence of extra funds from an acceptable source to cover their travel, tuition and living expenses in Australia.

What conditions apply to student visas?

You must uphold your visa conditions while studying and living in Australia or your visa may be cancelled and you may have to leave Australia. The visa conditions include the following:

- You must remain enrolled in a full-time registered course and attend at least 80% of the contact hours for each term or semester
- You must achieve satisfactory academic results for each term or semester of your course. Your education provider will advise the department if your results are not satisfactory
- You must stay with your education provider for the first 12 months of your course. If the course is less than 12 months you must stay for the duration of the course
- If you are doing a pre-requisite course you must stay with that education provider for the length of the course and then with the education provider of your main course for the first 12 months
- You can only change your education provider in exceptional circumstances
- You must prove that you have enough money to pay for travel, tuition and living expenses for yourself, your spouse and your dependent children for the duration of your stay in Australia.

Do I need to have Health Insurance if I am studying in Australia?

Yes, you must have health insurance for you and any family members accompanying you while you are studying in Australia.

Health Insurance can be provided by obtaining Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) which provides medical and hospital insurance. You can ask your education provider to organise OSHC for you, or you can select an approved OSHC provider and pay the insurance yourself.

When you lodge your application you must provide a receipt or other proof of your OSHC payment. The OSHC should commence when you arrive in Australia. For more information on Health Insurance please see the website www.health.gov.au

Can I work while studying?

Yes, once you have arrived in Australia and started your course you and any family members can apply for permission to work.

You are allowed to work a maximum of 20 hours per week during your course term and unlimited hours when you are on holiday from the course. Any work that is considered to be part of your course is not included in the 20 hours per week limit. If you are doing voluntary or unpaid work you must still apply for permission to work. This is included in the 20 hours per week limit.

Family members of the following students can work **unlimited** hours once the student starts their main course:

- Students enrolled in Masters by coursework (visa 573)
- Students enrolled in Masters by research or Doctoral degree (visa 574)
- Students sponsored by Aus AID or Defence (visa 576).

You must also comply with the State and Territory laws of Australia. Under all State and Territory laws you cannot work during school hours if you are under the school leaving age, which in most states is 15 years of age.

What other information do I need to know about applying for a student visa?

When you lodge your student visa application it is important that you include all the required documents with your application. If you cannot provide all the supporting documentation when you lodge your visa application you should tell the department which documents are missing and when you expect to be able to provide them as incomplete applications may be delayed or in some cases refused.

Your visa will be linked to the passport number you use in your application and you must use the same passport to travel to and from Australia. Your passport should be valid for at least 6 months from the time you lodge the application.

There may be extra costs associated with the application, such as translating documents into English or medical examinations, or if required a police clearance certificate.

Before you apply for a student visa you must have applied for and been accepted to study full-time at an educational institution in Australia.

A student visa allows you to stay in Australia for the duration of your course. While on a student visa you are allowed multiple entries to Australia. Dependent family members who come with you to Australia are usually able to stay the same length of time as you but they cannot remain in Australia once you have left the country.

A registered course is an education or training course offered by an Australian education provider registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS). For more information on this please see the website <http://cricos.dest.gov.au>

If you are applying for a student visa online you must provide the code from your electronic Confirmation of Enrolment. You will get this from your education provider once you have registered and been accepted for your course.

If you are applying for this visa by post you must provide your letter of Confirmation of Enrolment or your letter of offer from the education provider.

If your course is 10 months or less - your visa will usually be granted for 1 month longer than the end date of your course.

If your course is longer than 10 months - your visa will usually be granted for 2 months longer than the end date of your course.

If your student visa expires before your graduation, you can apply for a Visitor visa. You will need a letter from your education provider which states the date of your graduation.

For more detailed information on any of the student visas, including information on how to apply please refer to the website www.immi.gov.au

What study visa options are available?

The Study Visa options available include:

- 1 English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS)
- 2 Vocational Education and Training Sector Visa: Temporary Visa
- 3 Higher Education Sector: Temporary Visa - Assessment Level 1
- 4 Postgraduate Research Sector: Temporary Visa - Assessment Level 1
- 5 Aus AID or Defence Sponsored Sector:
Temporary Visa (Subclass 576) - Assessment Level 2

1 English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS)

ELICOS is available to international students who want to study English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) in Australia. This would include courses that lead to a certificate level I, II, III or IV. You should consider applying for this visa if you want to:

- Apply for your first student visa
- Renew your student visa
- Apply to join a family member who is in Australia on a student visa
- If English is not your first language.

You must pay a non-refundable visa application fee when you lodge your visa application. The application fee is AUD \$430/€262 (2007 figure). There is a fee of AUD \$60/€40 (2007 figure) for a visa granting you permission to work.

Before you apply for this visa you must have been accepted to study full-time at an educational institution in Australia. If you are studying ELICOS as a pre-requisite to another course you must apply for the visa appropriate to your main course of study.

With this visa you can study in Australia and any eligible dependant family members can accompany you to Australia. You and your family members can apply for permission to work and your spouse can study in Australia for up to 3 months. For more information on this please refer to the website www.immi.gov.au

2 Vocational Education and Training Sector Visa: Temporary Visa - Assessment Level 1

This visa is for international students who wish to apply to study in Australia and are applying for their 1st student visa, renewing their student visa or applying to join a family member who is in Australia on a student visa. Your main course of study must be:

- A certificate at level 1, 2, 3 or 4
- A diploma
- An advanced diploma or
- A vocational graduate certificate or a vocational graduate diploma.

You must pay a non-refundable visa application fee when you lodge your visa application. The application fee is AUD \$430/€262 approx. (2007 figure). There is also a fee of AUD \$60/€40 approx. (2007 figure) for a visa granting you permission to work.

With this visa you can study in Australia and any eligible dependant family members can accompany you to Australia. You and your family members can apply for permission to work and your spouse can study in Australia for up to 3 months. If your spouse wants to study for more than 3 months they must apply for their own student visa.

3 Higher Education Sector: Temporary Visa - Assessment Level 1

This visa is designed for international students applying to study in Australia and are applying for their first student visa, renewing their student visa or applying to join a family member who is in Australia on a student visa. Your main course of study must be one of the following:

- Bachelor degree
- Associate degree
- Graduate certificate
- Graduate diploma
- Masters by coursework.

You must pay a non-refundable visa application charge of AUD \$430/€262 (2007 figure) when you lodge your visa application. There is also a fee of AUD\$60/€40 (2007 figure) for a visa granting permission to work.

With this visa you can study in Australia and apply for permission to work in Australia while on this visa. Eligible dependant family members accompany you to Australia and apply for permission to work. Your spouse can study in Australia for up to 3 months. If they want to study for more than 3 months they must apply for their own student visa. This application can be made in Australia.

4 Postgraduate Research Sector: Temporary Visa - Assessment Level 1

This is a multi-entry visa is designed for international students who want to study a Masters degree by research or a Doctoral degree in Australia. If you are granted this visa you can stay in Australia for the duration of your course.

To be eligible to apply for this visa you must:

- Have applied for and been accepted to study full-time at an educational institution in Australia
- Be accepted for full-time study in a registered course or part of a registered course to be eligible for this visa.

You must have enough money to pay for travel, tuition and living expenses for yourself, your spouse and your dependent children for the duration of your stay in Australia. For more information on this please see **page 65, Financial Requirements**.

You must meet the health and character requirements and you may need to undergo a health examination. For more information on the health and character requirements please see **Chapter 3 - General Information**

You must pay a non-refundable visa application charge when you lodge your visa application. The application charge for this visa is AUD \$430/€262 (2007 figure). Eligible dependant family members can accompany you to Australia, apply for permission to work and study for 3 months or less.

Health insurance

You must have health insurance while in Australia. Health insurance can be provided by obtaining Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) which provides medical and hospital insurance. You can ask your education provider to organise OSHC for you, or you can select an approved OSHC provider yourself and pay the insurance.

When you lodge your application, you must provide a receipt or other proof of your OSHC payment. The OSHC should commence when you arrive in Australia. Once you have arrived in Australia and started your course, you and your family members can apply for permission to work.

5 Aus AID or Defence Sponsored Sector: Temporary Visa (Subclass 576) - Assessment Level 2

This visa is designed for international students who are sponsored by AusAID or Australia's Department of Defence to study a full-time course of any type in Australia. This visa is for you if you want to do one of the following:

- Apply for your first student visa
- Renew your student visa
- Apply to join a family member who is in Australia on a student visa.

You must pay a non-refundable visa application charge when you lodge your visa application. The charge for this visa is AUD €430/€262 (2007 figure).

This visa entitles you to study and work in Australia until the end of your course. All eligible dependant family members can accompany you to Australia. With this visa you and your family members can apply for permission to work. Your spouse can study in Australia for up to 3 months. If your spouse wants to study for more than three months they must apply for their own student visa. The application can be made in Australia.

Before you apply for this visa you must have applied and been accepted to study full-time at an educational institution in Australia. This visa allows you to stay in Australia for the duration of your course.

If your course of study is for 10 months or less - your visa will usually be granted for 1 month longer than the duration of your course.

If your course of study is longer than 10 months your visa will usually be granted for 2 months longer than the duration of your course. If your course of study is longer than 10 months and finishes at the end of an academic year your visa will usually cease on the 15th March of the following year. This visa allows a person multiple entries to Australia.

Dependent family members who come with you to Australia are usually able to stay the same length of time as you, but they cannot stay once you have left the country.

When you lodge your application you must provide a letter from AusAID or Department of Defence indicating their support of your study in Australia.

You may be asked, in certain circumstances, to show that you have extra funds to support your family members. This may happen if your scholarship is not enough to support the full living costs of your family members. If your family members decide not to come with

you to Australia you must prove that you can financially support your family members remaining at home taking into consideration the local standard of living. For more information on the financial requirements please **see page 65**.

If your family members later decide to join you in Australia, you must show that you have extra funds to support their living, tuition, school and travel costs in Australia.

You must meet the health and character requirements to apply for this visa. For detailed information on this please **Chapter 3 - General Information**.

You do **not** need Overseas Student Health Cover if you provide a letter from AusAID or Defence stating that you are an unaccompanied student sponsored by AusAID or Department of Defence.

Your education provider will advise you of the level of English you require and the evidence you must provide. If your education provider requires that you complete ELICOS (English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students), you may study a maximum of 30 weeks of ELICOS before starting your main course.

If you are applying for your **first student visa** your education provider will advise you of the academic qualifications you require and the evidence you must provide.

If you are applying to **renew your student visa** you must provide the following:

- Academic transcripts and records of attendance to show that you satisfied the course requirements
- A letter of support from AusAID or Department of Defence.

You must have and maintain health insurance for you and your family members while in Australia.

If I am a student less than 18 years of age are there any other factors do I need to be aware of?

If you are under 18 years of age you must have permission to study in Australia from both of your parents and/or anyone who can legally decide where you can live. If any of these people cannot sign your student visa application on your behalf they must sign a statutory declaration giving their permission and submit it with your application or the consent form for children under the age of 18 years.

If you are under 18 years of age you must have acceptable arrangements for your accommodation, support and general welfare. You must show that you will either live in Australia with your parent or legal custodian or live in Australia with a relative (over 21 years of age) nominated by your parent or legal guardian.

A Student Welfare Declaration form must be completed by your parents or your legal guardian. If you are going to live with a relative, your nominated relative must be a:

- Brother or sister
- Step-brother or step-sister
- Step-parent
- Grandparent
- Aunt or uncle
- Step-aunt or step-uncle
- Niece or nephew
- Step-niece or step-nephew.

Your nominated relative must be eligible to remain in Australia until your visa expires or you turn 18 and meet the character requirements. For more information on the character requirements please see **Chapter 3 - General Information**.

You can also arrange to bring a relative to Australia as your guardian on a Student Guardian Visa.

