

General information about Australia

Australia also known as the Commonwealth of Australia is the sixth largest country by total land area. It is also a continent with island of Tasmania and other smaller islands around the continent. The neighboring countries include New Zealand, Fiji Island, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Island, Vanuatu to name a few.

Australia is one of the wealthiest countries in the world and also a developed nation. It ranks highly in international comparisons in the world, such as quality of life, education system, Health System, Economically strong and also civil and political rights. Australia has six states—New South Wales (NSW), Queensland (QLD), South Australia (SA), Tasmania (TAS), Victoria (VIC) and Western Australia (WA)—and two major mainland territories—the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and the Northern Territory (NT).

Australia has 37 government-funded universities and two private universities, as well as a number of other specialist institutions that provide approved courses at the higher education level. The University of Sydney is Australia's oldest university, having been founded in 1850. Other notable universities include those of the Group of Eight leading tertiary institutions.

The Australian dollar is the currency for the nation. All of Australia's major cities fare well in global comparative livability surveys; Melbourne reached top spot for the fourth year in a row on *The Economist's* 2014 list of the world's most live-able cities, followed by Adelaide, Sydney, and Perth in the fifth, seventh, and ninth places respectively.

Why immigrate to Australia

Large land area, sixth largest country in the world and has the lowest population density per square kilometer.

High visa success rate.

Safe environment.

Multicultural society.

Relatively warm climate.

Standard of living & cost is viable.

Ample job opportunities are available.

Almost any skill can qualify under the new CSOL list – for state sponsored migration

Types of Migration

Skilled Migration

Partner Visa

Family Sponsored Visa

Employee Nomination Scheme (ENS)

Advantages of skilled Migration

With high standard of living, stable democracy and pleasant climate Australia is one of the most popular destinations for skilled young people to immigrate. For professionals skilled migration visas are one of the best options to immigrate to this country. Under the Australian General Skilled Migration program it is easier to fulfill Australian immigration requirements for a permanent Australian visa.

The General Skilled Migration (GSM) program is for those who do not have an employer as sponsor but who are skilled in one of the professions listed on the Australian Skilled Occupation List (SOL) - http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/_pdf/sol-schedule3.pdf. Candidate must be between 18 and 45 years of age and have proved good English skills. Moreover they need to have recent skilled work experience or a recently earned and eligible Australian qualification.

With recent modifications that have been made to the Australian General Skilled Migration program there will be possibility of awarding more points for very good English skills. In addition Australian government is reducing the visa structure from 15 subclasses to 9 subclasses which makes it easier for an applicant to know which visa subclass suits the best.

Under General Skilled Migration program the different subclass of visa are structured into onshore and offshore categories as well as into sponsored and independent categories.

Onshore visas are for those who are already in Australia holding an eligible visa for application under the GSM.

Offshore visas are for individuals abiding outside Australia. This is the most common way for people immigrating to Australia as a skilled migrant.

To apply for sponsored visas one has to be sponsored by either an Australian relative or an Australian state/territory government. To be eligible for these visas applicant have to face some more requirements and in some cases a bond must be paid.

Independent visa category is the one with the least amount of restrictions and it is considered as the preferable category especially for people who have the proper qualifications.

Some visas are awarded on a points based system. In some situations when applicant is not able to score enough points to qualify, they can be put into a reserve pool that will be considered if the requirements are lowered in the future.

Pass mark in points test = 60 points.

IELTS is valid for – 3 years (At the time of ‘invitation to apply’ form EOI).

Almost any skill can qualify with the extensive list in CSOL – for State Sponsored migration.

No 'minimum threshold' employment requirement – people without work experience also qualify for migration.

NO fee for lodging EOI. - ONLY e-lodgment.

Please note changes may again occur in January 2016.

Criteria to Migrate

Age: - Must be under 50 years at the time of approval of EOI Application from July 2012

Skill: - Must have skills in 'Designated Skill Occupation', from the Skilled Occupation List (SOL) for either from Schedule 1 or for Regional Sponsored from Schedule 2 Consolidated Skilled Occupation List [CSOL].

English: - Must have at least 'Competent English' – having at least a score of 6 in ALL the four components of IELTS test – taken within 24 months at the time of approval of EOI.

Some may need 7 bands IELTS or even 8

Apart from meeting the Threshold criteria must be able to meet the following requirements – to satisfy the 'Basic Requirements'.

Must have 'Post-Secondary' qualifications (such as Degree / Trade certificate) – AND your skill MUST be assessed by a relevant authority in Australia – as suitable for your nominated occupation.

Although experience is now NOT a basic requirement, it is still required to claim points and also for skills assessment.

Application Procedure

Three distinguished steps in the application process as follows:

Skills Assessment: Before lodging the General Skilled Migration application, your skills for your nominated occupation must be assessed by the relevant assessing authority. There is a charge for this assessment, which to be paid to the authority. As on-line applications are made credit card is required.

Lodging the Expression of Interest [EOI]: On having valid skills assessment, minimum English proficiency and 60 points, can lodge the EOI with DIAC – only by online, no DIAC fee.

Final Visa submission: Once DIAC selects the application from EOI based on highest point score or state sponsorship, DIAV makes an “Invitation to Apply” for final visa. Within 60 days of receiving the invitation to apply, all documents in support of the application and the visa fee to be submitted to DIAC – by online.

Partner Visa:

The Spouse/Partner visa enables partners of Australian citizens, Australian permanent residents or eligible New Zealand citizens to apply to enter and/or remain permanently in Australia.

The Spouse/Partner visa can be applied for from either inside or outside Australia. If you are applying while you are in Australia you must also hold a valid substantive visa and be in Australia at the time the visa is granted. If you are applying from outside Australia then you must also be outside of Australia at the time the visa is granted.

You might be able to get this visa if you are married to or in a de facto relationship with an:

- Australian citizen
- Australian permanent resident
- eligible New Zealand citizen.
- You must be outside Australia when you apply.

The Partner (Provisional) visa (subclass 309) lets you:

- enter Australia and stay here until a decision is made about your permanent Partner visa
- work in Australia
- study in Australia, but with no access to government funding
- enrol in Medicare, Australia's scheme for health-related care and expenses.

If you are later granted a permanent visa, you can:

- stay in Australia indefinitely
- work and study in Australia
- apply for Australian citizenship (if you are eligible)
- sponsor eligible relatives for permanent residence
- receive some social security payments
- travel to and from Australia for five years from the date the visa is granted – after that time you will need another visa to enter Australia.

Employer Nomination Scheme (subclass 186)

The Employer Nomination Scheme visa (subclass 186) is for skilled workers who want to work in Australia. This visa involves a two-step process, firstly, nomination by an approved Australian employer and then an application under the nominated stream. It is part of the Permanent Employer Sponsored Visa programme.

This visa is a permanent residence visa. You can be in or outside Australia when you apply. If you are in Australia, you must hold a substantive visa or a bridging visa A, B or C.

This visa is a permanent residence visa for skilled workers. It allows you to work in Australia under one of three streams:

- Temporary Residence Transition stream
- Direct Entry stream
- Agreement stream.

The **Temporary Residence Transition stream** is for subclass 457 visa holders who have worked for two years, while holding a subclass 457 visa, in the same occupation with their nominating employer (who has lodged a valid nomination with us under the Temporary Residence Transition stream), who wants to offer them a permanent position in that occupation.

The **Direct Entry** stream is for:

People who have been nominated by their employer under the Direct Entry stream

People who have never, or only briefly, worked in Australia, or

Temporary residents who do not qualify for the Temporary Residence Transition stream

The **Agreement stream** is for people sponsored by an employer through a labour agreement.

You might be able to get this visa if you:

- have been nominated by an approved Australian employer
- are younger than 50 years of age, unless you are exempt
- meet the skills, qualifications and English language requirements, unless you are exempt
- apply under the stream for which you were nominated.