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GET YOUR VISA

A CONCISE GUIDE THAT EXPLAINS EVERYTHING YOU NEED
TO KNOW ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN STUDENT VISA
(SUBCLASS 500)

Overseas students seeking higher education in Australia must apply for the Australian Student Visa Subclass 500 (regardless of the field of study opted). The Student visa aims to enable international students to study and practice in Australia full-time. A student can remain in Australia for the period of their course and up to five years, effective from the date of your admission.

The application charge for your Australian Visa is 33,272 INR (620 AUD). Subclass 500 Visa allows you to bring a family member to Australia, enroll in a qualifying course of study, and apply for the program of choice online in or outside of Australia. Before applying for a visa, the student must enroll with an Australian education provider or, in some circumstances, have a letter of offer. A meticulous understanding of the visa application process can help you plan ahead and complete the process and interview with precision.

| TYPES | APPLICABLE FOR |
|---|--|
| Student Visa (Subclass 500) | Up to 5 years |
| Visitor Visa (Subclass 600, 601, 651) | Maximum of 3 months of study |
| Working Holiday Visa (Subclass 417 & 462) | Maximum of 4 months of study |
| Student Guardian Visa (Subclass 590) | For guardian with international student in Australia and 3 months study or ELICOS course for 20 hours per week for the duration of visa. |
| Temporary Graduate Visa (Subclass 485) | For students completing Australian education to stay and gain work experience for 18 months to 4 years. |
| Training Visa (Subclass 407) | For people who want to come to Australia on a temporary basis to participate in occupational training or professional development. |

1. Visa Eligibility

Enroll in a course of study

You are required to provide Evidence of Enrollment as part of your Australian student visa application. It is commonly available /provided in the following forms:

- **CoE or Confirmation of Enrollment-** Once you have received the offer letter, accepted the offer in writing, and paid the tuition deposit, the university will send you a CoE. This document validates the applicant's enrollment in a specific course.
- **Packaged courses & CoEs:** If you are applying for more than one course, your visa application must include all of the CoE codes, or your student visa will only cover the time of stay for the listed CoE.

The interval between the two courses should not be longer than two months. The gap period is waived if the first course concludes and the next course starts at the outset of the academic year.]

- **Letter of Support:** If you are admitted to a full-time study or training program sponsored by the Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade scholarship schemes or the Australian Department of Defence and/or, Acceptance Advice of Secondary Exchange Students (**AASES**) - you can present your letter of support as evidence of enrollment.
- **Letter from Educator:** PG students who need to remain in Australia while their thesis is being graded must send a letter from their educator stating the same.

Be a Genuine Temporary Entrant (GTE)

A GTE Form is proof that the applicant has met the temporary entrant criterion for a student visa. To apply for a Student Visa, the applicant must demonstrate that he or she has a genuine intention to live in Australia temporarily for academic purposes only. You are required to write the statement, preferably in English. If not, a translated copy will be mandatory.



The GTE statement must provide the evidence and/or information of the following:

- Academic transcripts and other information of the Previous study.
- Reasons addressing the **Gap in Study**
- **Information and referrals contact details of Current Employment**
- **Ties to Home Country**- Describe your intention to travel to your home country due to family, financial, and social connections.
- **Economic Situation in Home Country**- Any document 12 months prior to making the application - Income tax returns, bank statement, Documents detailing employment or business detail.
- **Employment in Third Country**- Potential career proposals, including pay scale specifics and other benefits.

Note: The applicant's circumstances in their home country and the prospective conditions in Australia will be taken into account by the decision-makers while going through your application. Hence, making a reasonable and genuine GTE statement is important.

Overseas Student Health Cover

It is a requirement of your visa that you have adequate health care for the length of your stay in Australia. You must purchase an Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) and keep your insurance updated while in Australia on a student visa.

OSHC helps foreign students pay for medical and hospital treatment while studying in Australia. OSHC also provides emergency service and a limited supply of pharmaceuticals. If you are behind on expenses or renewing your coverage, you may be entitled to keep your coverage, but you will be unable to sue for benefits rendered when you were behind.

You can purchase an OSHC by identifying and paying for your chosen policy through a licensed insurance broker in Australia. OSHC must be presented to the immigration department with every member of your family who joins you in Australia.

- The minimum cover for singles is 430 AUD/year
- The minimum cover for couples is 2680 AUD/year
- The minimum cover for a family is 4000 AUD/year

| HEALTH INSURER | INSURER WEBSITE |
|---|--|
| ahm OSHC | www.ahmoshc.com |
| Allianz Care Australia (people care) | www.allianzcare.com.au/en/student-visa-oshc.html |
| BUPA Australia | www.bupa.com.au/health-insurance/oshc |
| CBHS International Health | www.cbhsinternationalhealth.com.au/overseas-students-oshc |
| BUPA Australia | www.bupa.com.au/health-insurance/oshc |
| Medibank Private | www.medibank.com.au |
| NIB OSHC | www.nib.com.au |

Meet English language proficiency qualification

Every applicant is required to take an English Language Proficiency Test. There are four different tests - IELTS Academic, TOEFL iBT, C1 Advanced, and Pearson PTE Academic.

Applicants are expected to provide the results of the test with the application. The level of English language proficiency required depends on the institute and program you want. You will also need the test results for your visa application.

| EXAM | MINIMUM SCORE | MINIMUM SCORE (for 10 weeks ELICOS) | MINIMUM SCORE (for 20 weeks ELICOS) |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| IELTS | 5.5 | 5 | 4.5 |
| TOEFL-IBT | 46 | 35 | 32 |
| CAE | 162 | 154 | 147 |
| PTE | 42 | 36 | 30 |
| Occupational English Test | B for each test component | NA | NA |

*ELICOS -English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students

Evidence of fund

When considering Australia as your study destination, applicants must be well aware of the financials and costs required to stay in the country. Applicants are expected to have access to a full year's tuition fees, a total of AU\$18,610 (minimum) per year, an overseas health insurance plan, and money to cover return airfare.

You must provide financial evidence that you have enough funds to remain in Australia. The expenses required vary based on the length of stay, the program opted, and other factors.

The documents to provide include:

- Deposits at a financial institution
- Scholarships, loans, and/or other financial support documents
- You could also show evidence of an average revenue of 62,222 AUD in the 12 months preceding the visa submission. (If you bring family members the costs vary)
- An approximation of the cost for an opted program and living can be
 Bachelors program costs- 70,000 AUD to 110,000 AUD
 Masters program costs- 18,000 AUD to 70,000 AUD
 Cost of living- 21,000 AUD/year (singles)

Character and Health Requirement

If the applicant is 16 years or above, you must meet the character requirements for an Australian student visa. To satisfy the criteria, when submitting applications, you must:

- Give a detailed account of any criminal activity you've engaged in.
- Provide factual responses to questions raised.
- Provide all requested information to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

After you have applied, Home Affairs may request additional documentation from you.

- Police certificate
- Form 80 personal particulars for character assessment
- Character statutory declaration
- Letter of conduct from an employer



Military certificate.

Health Requirement - The applicant must be free of any illness that could harm public health, cost a lot of money for hospitals and government programs, or put a strain on community or hospital services that are in short supply.

Australian Values Statement

The applicant must sign the Australian Values Statement. The declaration states that the student visa applicant will follow and respect the Australian law. You must also have read the booklet - Life in Australia.

2. Where to apply for Visa

- Apply for your visa at least 6 weeks before the start of your course.
- If you are in Australia, you will need extra time in the event of any complication, so allow plenty of time before your new visa expires.
- Assemble the documents using the Document Checklist Tool. Be sure you have the most up-to-date list because the Document Checklist tool is updated twice a year, on March 31 and September 30.
- Whether you are in or outside of Australia, apply for the visa online.

Arrange for finances and other records after getting the Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) from an Australian university. Apply for an Australian Student Visa by taking the steps outlined below:

- Create or sign in to your Immi Account on homeaffairs.gov.au or download in pdf format for offline application.
- Attach necessary documents (maximum 60 files/ up to 5MB)
- Pay the visa application fee - \$413
- Payment can be made via - MasterCard (including Debit MasterCard), VISA (including VISA Debit Card), American Express, Diners Club, JCB, China Union Pay, Prepaid credit cards, PayPal, and BPAY.
- Fill and Submit the final application

After You Apply

Following the completion of your applications, you must complete the following tasks via ImmiAccount:

- Provide Biometrics
- Arrange health examinations and medical referral letters
- Produce additional information required
- Abide by the law - The Australian immigration is concerned about an applicant's character, they will conduct character or background checks on you to ensure the same.

3. Visa Processing Time

The student visa to Australia is usually approved within a month, although it could take up to three months. The Simplified Student Visa Framework (SSVF), gives you a streamlined version of the visa processing time. Below is the screening time for a student visa:

| STREAM | 75% PROCESSING | 90% PROCESSING |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Foreign Affairs or Defence Sector | 20 Days | 26 Days |
| Postgraduate Research Sector | 39 Days | 77 Days |
| Independent ELICOS Sector | 23 Days | 38 Days |
| Vocational Education and Training Sector | 36 Days | 52 Days |
| Higher Education Sector | 17 Days | 32 Days |



4. Visa Rejection

The likelihood of your visa application being approved is heavily contingent on a few factors, including your visa denial history, the accuracy of the information submitted, financial capability, language proficiency, and full documentation. Failure to fulfill all of these criteria may result in the rejection of an Australian Student Visa.

Reasons:

- Incorrect/ Incomplete Documents
- Selecting a course unrelated to previous academic studies
- Failure to support tuition, living and other costs in Australia
- Incompetency in English Language Proficiency
- Health problems
- Failure to explain yourself as GTE (Genuine Temporary Entrant)
- Criminal records (if any)
- Failure to meet academic requirements
- Intentions of not leaving the country

Satisfying all conditions and concentrating on the accuracy of the records would increase the odds of obtaining the visa.

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