

Points-tested stream

This visa lets invited workers with skills we need, to live and work permanently anywhere in Australia.

Overview

Stay

Permanently

Cost

From AUD6,135.00 (concessions apply in limited circumstances)

Cost Concession

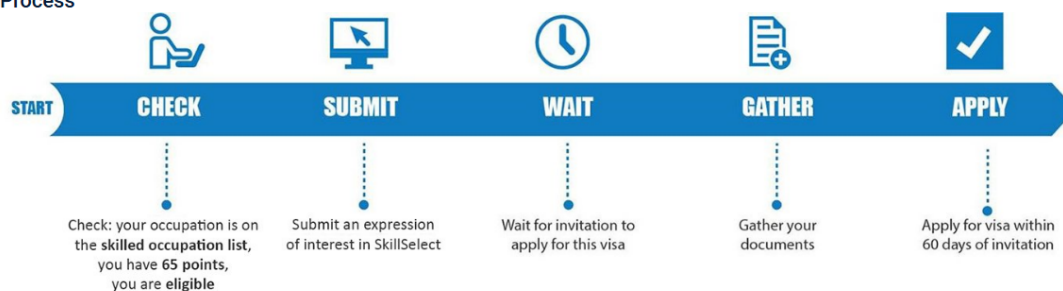
From 1 July 2026, a lower visa cost applies to eligible Pacific Island and Timor-Leste citizens who lodge a valid visa application. See [About this visa](#).

To work out what your visa will cost, use the [Visa Pricing Estimator](#). The estimator does not take into account any other costs.

Processing times

For an indication of processing times for this visa, use the [visa processing time guide tool](#). This will show the processing times for recently decided applications. It is a guide only and not specific to your application.

Process



With this visa, you can

- work and study anywhere in Australia
- sponsor eligible relatives for permanent residence
- if eligible, [become an Australian citizen](#)

[See all conditions](#)

[Check your eligibility](#)

You must

- have an occupation on the relevant [skilled occupation list](#)
- have a [suitable skills assessment](#) for the occupation
- be invited to apply for this visa
- satisfy the points test

Help with your visa

If you are getting help with your visa, before you pay someone, read information on [Who can help with your visa application](#).

With this visa, you can

- stay in Australia permanently
- work and study in Australia

- attend free English language classes through the [Adult Migrant English Program](#), if eligible
- enrol in Australia's public health care scheme, [Medicare](#)
- sponsor your relatives to come to Australia
- travel to and from Australia for 5 years
- if eligible, [become and Australian citizen](#).

Newly arrived residents may need to [wait before they can access certain Australian Government payments and benefits](#).

How long you can stay

This is a permanent visa. It lets you stay in Australia indefinitely. The visa has a travel component that expires 5 years after the date of visa grant.

You become a permanent resident on the day we grant the visa.

For citizenship purposes, your permanent residence starts on the day:

- we grant the visa if you are in Australia
- you enter Australia on this visa if you are outside Australia

Include family

You can include members of the family unit in your application. You can:

- include them when you lodge your visa application
- add them after you lodge your application but before we decide on your visa.

Family members who apply for the visa must meet our [health](#) and [character](#) requirements.

If your partner or dependent children are not included in this application, tell us the reason why (for example, they already hold Australian citizenship or are a permanent resident).

Cost

The visa costs AUD6,135.00 for the main applicant (concessions apply in limited circumstances).

There is also a charge for each family member who applies for the visa with you.

To work out what your visa will cost use the [Visa Pricing Estimator](#).

You might have to pay an extra charge for any applicant 18 years old or older who has less than [functional English](#). This charge is the second instalment. Pay it only when we ask you to. We ask for the charge only if we are going to grant the visa.

The second instalment charge for family members is AUD4,885.00.

The Visa Pricing Estimator does not include the second instalment or other costs. You might also have to pay other costs for health checks, police certificates and biometrics.

Cost concession for eligible Pacific Island and Timor-Leste visa applicants

From 1 July 2026, a lower visa cost applies to eligible Pacific Island and Timor-Leste citizens who lodge a valid visa application.

We will charge eligible applicants the lower visa application cost during the application process in [ImmiAccount](#). We will recognise eligible applicants by the valid passport from the specified countries used in the application when they apply.

Family members are also eligible for the lower visa cost. We base this on the passport of the primary applicant (or visa holder who satisfies the primary visa criteria).

The primary applicant must hold a valid passport issued by one of the following countries:

- Federated States of Micronesia
- Fiji
- Kiribati
- Nauru
- Palau
- Papua New Guinea
- Republic of the Marshall Islands
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands

- Timor-Leste
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu

Apply from

You can be in or outside Australia when you apply for the visa and when we decide on your application, but not in immigration clearance.

If you apply in Australia, you must hold a substantive or a subclass 010 Bridging A visa, a subclass 020 Bridging B visa or a subclass 030 Bridging C visa, otherwise your application will not be processed.

Processing times

For an indication of processing times for this visa, use the [visa processing time guide tool](#). This will show the processing times for recently decided applications. It is a guide only and not specific to your application.

We assess applications on a case-by-case basis, and actual processing times can vary due to individual circumstances including:

- whether you have lodged a complete application, including all necessary supporting documents
- how quickly you respond to any requests for additional information
- how long it takes to perform required checks on the supporting information provided
- how long it takes to receive additional information from external agencies, particularly in relation to health, character, and national security requirements
- for permanent migration visa applications, how many places are available in the migration program

Travel

You can travel in and out of Australia as many times as you want for 5 years from the date we grant the visa. After 5 years you will need a [Resident Return \(RRV\) visa \(subclass 155 or 157\)](#) to re-enter Australia as a permanent resident.

Visa label

We will digitally link your visa to your passport. You will not get a label in your passport.

Eligibility

Have this visa

If you are in Australia at the time you apply, you must hold one of the following:

- a substantive visa
- [Bridging visa A - BVA - \(subclass 010\)](#)
- [Bridging visa B - BVB - \(subclass 020\)](#)
- [Bridging visa C - BVC - \(subclass 030\)](#)

If you currently hold, or your last substantive visa held was either:

- [Skilled Work Regional \(Provisional\) \(subclass 491\)](#); or
- [Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional \(Provisional\) \(subclass 494\)](#)

You must have held that visa for at least 3 years at the time you apply.

Be invited to apply

You can only apply for this visa if we invite you to. See [before you apply](#).

Submit an [expression of interest \(EOI\)](#) to let us know you would like to apply for the visa.

After you have submitted an EOI, you will be ranked against other intending applicants and might be invited to apply for the visa.

Invitations are issued regularly through [SkillSelect](#).

Have a suitable skills assessment

For your application to be valid, you must declare that you have a suitable [skills assessment](#) at the time of invitation.

Delegates of the Minister will now accept a suitable skills assessment for an applicant's nominated skilled occupation which has been obtained within the 60 day invitation period.

This change of approach is made as a result of the decision of *Thapa v Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs* [2021] FCCA 686 (*Thapa*). The Minister will administer the *Migration Regulations 1994* in accordance with the decision in *Thapa*, but the Minister reserves the right to make submissions in a Court that *Thapa* was wrongly decided.

You will need to provide a copy of this skills assessment with your application.

For medical and legal practitioners, we also accept the following as proof of a skills assessment:

- full or unconditional or general medical registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
- conditional specialist registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. This only allows you to practise in your speciality. You need no further training or supervision
- admission to practice law in the relevant state or territory

Your skills assessment must have been obtained in the 3 years before the date of your invitation. If the assessment was for a shorter period, that period must not have passed.

If your skills were assessed on the basis of a qualification you got in Australia when you held a student visa, the qualification must be from studying a course registered on CRICOS.

Be this age

You must be aged under 45 when we invite you to apply for the visa.

You can still apply for the visa if you turn 45 after we invite you to apply.

If you turn 45 after you submit your EOI but before we invite you to apply, you will not be invited to apply.

Be able to score 65 points or more

This is a points-tested visa.

When you submit your EOI in SkillSelect you will be given an indicative points score based on the claims you have made. If you do not obtain a score of 65 points you will not be invited to apply for this visa.

If we do invite you to apply for the visa, your invitation will state the number of points that you must score when we assess your application for grant of the visa (this score may be higher than 65 points, depending on your claims in the EOI).

When you lodge your application you must provide evidence supporting your claims.

To calculate how many points you may score use the [points calculator](#).

Have this level of English language

At the time of invitation, you must have at least [competent English](#).

English language

Competent English

On 7 August 2025, the English language tests approved for Australian visa purposes changed. If you took a test before this date, your result may still be valid as proof of competent English for up to 3 years, depending on the [visa subclass](#).

To prove you have competent English, show us evidence of one of the following:

- That you are a citizen of, and hold a valid passport issued by, one of the following countries:
 - Canada
 - New Zealand
 - The Republic of Ireland
 - The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
 - The United States of America
- You achieved one of the test scores in Table 1 or Table 2, in the 3 years before your visa application, depending on the [visa subclass](#).

Test	Scores
Cambridge C1 Advanced Test (C1 Advanced)	In each of the 4 test components, at least: • 163 for listening • 163 for reading • 170 for writing • 179 for speaking
Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program General (CELPIP General)	In each of the 4 test components, at least: • 7 for listening • 7 for reading • 7 for writing • 7 for speaking

International English Language Testing System (IELTS Academic)

The department accepts IELTS test results that include [One Skill Retake](#) (OSR) for eligible visas. To find out if you are eligible, check the relevant [visa page](#).

In each of the 4 test components, at least:

- 6 for listening
- 6 for reading
- 6 for writing
- 6 for speaking

International English Language Testing System (IELTS General Training)

The department accepts IELTS test results that include [One Skill Retake](#) (OSR) for eligible visas. To find out if you are eligible, check the relevant [visa page](#).

In each of the 4 test components, at least:

- 6 for listening
- 6 for reading
- 6 for writing
- 6 for speaking

Michigan English Test (MET)

The department accepts MET test results that include [Single Section Retake](#) (SSR) for eligible visas. To find out if you are eligible, check the relevant [visa page](#).

In each of the 4 test components, at least:

- 56 for listening
- 55 for reading
- 57 for writing
- 48 for speaking

Occupational English Test (OET)

This test is developed for health professionals. The OET scoring format was previously alphabetical and changed to numerical on 7 August 2025.

OET does not currently provide [overall test results](#) on test score reports. However, you can get your overall OET score results by contacting [OET](#).

In each of the 4 test components, at least:

- 290 for listening
- 310 for reading
- 290 for writing
- 330 for speaking

LANGUAGECERT Academic Test (LANGUECER Academic)

In each of the 4 test components, at least:

- 57 for listening
- 60 for reading
- 64 for writing
- 70 for speaking

Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic)

PTE Academic has the same name as the previous version of the test that was accepted before 7 August 2025. However, the test and scores are different.

In each of the 4 test components, at least:

- 47 for listening
- 48 for reading
- 51 for writing
- 54 for speaking

Test of English as a Foreign Language internet-Based Test (TOEFL iBT)

To ensure your TOEFL iBT result is valid for Australian visa purposes, you must select 'Taking TOEFL for Australia' when registering for your test.

Results not registered under this pathway are not eligible for Australian visa purposes.

In each of the 4 test components, at least:

- 16 for listening
- 16 for reading
- 19 for writing
- 19 for speaking

Test	Scores
Cambridge C1 Advanced Test (C1 Advanced) Previously known as Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) From 12 February 2024 to 6 August 2025, the department will only accept results from the Cambridge C1 Advanced paper-based test. The department will still accept tests taken before 12 February 2024 and within specified validity periods, for C1 Advanced paper-based and computer-based tests.	In each of the 4 test components, at least: • 169 for listening • 169 for reading • 169 for writing • 169 for speaking

International English Language Testing System (IELTS Academic or General Training)

From 14 December 2022, the department accepts IELTS test results that include [One Skill Retake](#) (OSR) for eligible visas. To find out if you are eligible, check the relevant [visa page](#).

Occupational English Test (OET)

This test is developed for health professionals. The OET scoring format was previously alphabetical and changed to numerical on 7 August 2025.

OET does not currently provide [overall test results](#) on test score reports. However, you can get your overall OET score results by contacting [OET](#).

In each of the 4 test components, at least:

- 6 for listening
- 6 for reading
- 6 for writing
- 6 for speaking

In each of the 4 test components, at least:

- B for listening
- B for reading
- B for writing
- B for speaking

Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic)

PTE Academic has the same name as the test available from 7 August 2025, however, the test and scores are different.

In each of the 4 test components, at least:

- 50 for listening
- 50 for reading
- 50 for writing
- 50 for speaking

Test of English as a Foreign Language internet-Based Test (TOEFL iBT)

From 26 July 2023 to 4 May 2024, the TOEFL iBT test was not approved for Australian visa purposes.

In each of the 4 test components, at least:

- 12 for listening
- 13 for reading
- 21 for writing
- 21 for speaking

* Test results from a test taken on or before 6 August 2025, may be used as evidence of English proficiency for visa purposes until 6 August 2028, inclusive. This will depend on the visa.

Some visas will allow you to submit other forms of evidence. To find out, check the relevant [visa pages](#).

Online test restrictions

The department does not accept evidence from English language tests that are delivered completely online (also known as 'remote-proctored' or 'at-home').

Examples of online tests that we do not accept for Australian visa purposes include:

- CELPIP Online
- IELTS Online
- LANGUAGECERT Academic Online
- MET Digital (taken at-home)
- OET@Home
- TOEFL iBT - Home Edition

Meet the skills requirement

Your occupation must be on the relevant list of eligible [skilled occupations](#) for the Skilled Independent visa (subclass 189) Point-Tested stream.

Meet our health requirement

You and any family who apply for the visa with you must meet our [health requirement](#).

If requested, family members not accompanying you to Australia might also need to meet our health requirement.

Meet our character requirement

You and family members aged 16 years and over who apply for the visa with you must meet our [character requirement](#).

Family members not accompanying you to Australia must also meet the character requirement.

Have paid back your debt to the Australian government

If you or any family members (including those who do not apply for the visa with you) owe the Australian Government money, you or they must have paid it back or arranged to pay it back.

Sign the Australian values statement

If you are 18 years of age or older, you must:

- have read, or had explained to you, the [Life in Australia booklet](#) and
 - confirm you will respect the Australian way of life and obey Australian laws when you sign or accept the [Australian Values Statement](#).
-

Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused

We will consider your immigration history when we make a decision on your application, which means you might not be eligible for this visa if you have had a visa cancelled or refused.

In some circumstances you may still apply for a permanent visa if you have had a visa cancelled or an application refused see [Limitations on applications in Australia \(129KB PDF\)](#).

If applying for a visa from outside Australia see [Can I go to Australia](#).

If you want immigration assistance, see [Who can help with your visa application](#).

Step by step

Step 1

Before you apply

You must submit an expression of interest (EOI) through [SkillSelect](#) to let us know you want to apply for this visa.

Step 2

Gather your documents

You will need to provide documents to support the claims you make in your EOI and show you meet the other eligibility criteria

Step 3

Apply for the visa

When you have your invitation you can apply online. You can be in or outside Australia.

You have 60 days from the date of your invitation to apply for the visa.

Provide accurate information

Provide accurate information. See what may happen if you can't [prove your identity or don't provide true information](#).

Apply for the visa online in ImmiAccount

1. Log into your [SkillSelect](#) account. In SkillSelect, click on the 'Apply for visa' button. This will take you to our online system, ImmiAccount.
2. Log in or create an ImmiAccount. Your ImmiAccount login and password will not be the same as your SkillSelect login and password.
3. [Attach your documents](#)

4. [Pay the application charge](#). We will not process your application until you pay the charge.
5. Note your transaction reference number (TRN).

Step 4

After you apply

We will let you know when we have received your application.

If you are granted a bridging visa you will receive notification of your visa grant.

Status updates

We don't give updates on applications within the standard processing time.

You can check if we need more information from you in [ImmiAccount](#).

Travel after you apply

If you are in Australia, you don't have to tell us if you want to travel outside Australia while we process your application. This is because you can be outside Australia when we make a decision.

But if you leave Australia, make sure your visa allows you to return. To see if you can return on your current visa, check [VEVO](#).

Learn about [visa expiry](#).

If you applied outside Australia, don't arrange travel to Australia, leave your job or sell your home until we advise you in writing that you have been granted the visa.

Health exams

If you didn't have [health examinations](#) before you applied, we will let you know if you need them. Check [ImmiAccount](#).

Biometrics

We might ask for biometrics (fingerprints and photo). We will let you know if you need to provide them.

Attach more information

If you did not attach all documents when you applied, attach them as soon as you can in [ImmiAccount](#).

We might also ask you to provide more information; however we are not obliged to do so and may make a decision on your application without asking for more documents.

Stay lawful

Make sure you stay lawful in Australia by holding a valid visa while we process your application.

When you applied for this visa, you were granted a Bridging visa A (BVA). If your current visa expires before we decide on your application, the BVA will come into effect. You can stay in Australia on the BVA while we process your new visa application.

Do not ask to have the visa you currently hold cancelled. If your visa is cancelled:

- you will be staying in Australia unlawfully
- your BVA will cease

Learn more about [visa expiry](#).

Pay the second instalment

If you need to pay a second instalment, pay it when we send you the invoice.

Add family

You can add members of the family unit to your application after you apply but before we decide on your visa.

Complete [Form 1436 - Adding an additional applicant after lodgement \(481KB PDF\)](#), pay using ImmiAccount, attach the form and supporting documents to your ImmiAccount.

Family members who apply for the visa must meet our [health](#) and [character](#) requirements.

Family members who are not coming to Australia do have to meet our [character](#) requirement and might have to meet our [health](#) requirement.

Newborn children

If your child is born after you submit your application but before we decide on your visa, you must tell us as soon as possible.

Find out what to do [if your child is born after you apply](#).

Mistakes on your application

You must tell us as soon as possible if you made a mistake on your application.

Complete [Form 1023 Notification of incorrect answers \(168KB PDF\)](#) and attach it in ImmiAccount.

Help with your application

Let us know if you no longer want someone to:

- receive your correspondence - complete [Form 956A Appointment or withdrawal of an authorised recipient \(301KB PDF\)](#)
- provide immigration advice - complete [Form 956 Appointment of a registered migration agent, legal practitioner or exempt person \(308KB PDF\)](#).

Upload your written notification or your forms to [ImmiAccount](#).

For more information see [Who can help you with your application](#).

Tell us if things change

Things you need to let us know about after you have applied include:

- changes to your phone number, email, address or passport
- changes to your marital or de facto status
- the birth of a child
- you want to withdraw your application

See how to tell us [if your situation changes](#).

Step 5

Visa outcome

You can be in or outside Australia when we decide your visa application but not in immigration clearance. We will let you know our decision in writing.

If we grant your visa, we will tell you:

- your visa grant number
- the date your visa starts
- your visa conditions, if applicable

Keep a copy of the decision.

If we refuse your visa, we will tell you:

- why we refused the visa
- whether you have a right to a review of the decision

We will not refund the application charge if we refuse your application.

When you have this visa

Becoming an Australian citizen

After a certain time, you might be eligible for Australian citizenship. Find out more about [becoming a citizen](#).

For citizenship purposes, your permanent residence starts on the day:

- we granted the visa, if you were in Australia
- you entered Australia on this visa, if you were outside Australia when we granted it

Leaving Australia

Before you leave

Check your travel documents

You must have a valid passport or other travel document to leave Australia and return.

Ensure your visa is still valid and allows you to re-enter Australia

Check the travel component of your visa in [VEVO](#).

See what to do if your [visa has expired or is about to expire](#).

At the Border

Leaving the airport faster

We have an automated process that uses facial recognition technology and your ePassport. You could leave the airport faster if you use [SmartGates](#).

After you leave

Proving you have been to Australia

[Request your international movement records](#) to get proof of your travel in and out of Australia.