

Subclass 186

Employer Nomination Scheme visa

Skilled visa income thresholds have increased in line with changes to annual Average Weekly Ordinary Time Earnings. For more information see Annual indexation of skilled visa income thresholds from 1 July 2026.

We prioritise applications in the Employer Nomination Scheme (subclass 186) in accordance with Ministerial Direction No. 119. We are now processing applications that were generally lodged in:

- June 2026 - Australian law enforcement or defence interests
- June 2025 - Healthcare and teaching occupations (onshore applicants);
September 2024 - Construction occupations (onshore applicants)
- July 2024 - All other applications where the applicant was in Australia at the time of application
- July 2024 - All other applications where the applicant was outside Australia at the time of application.

Employer Nomination Scheme visa (subclass 186)

Direct Entry stream

This visa lets skilled workers nominated by an employer live and work in Australia permanently.

Skilled visa income thresholds are increasing in line with changes to annual Average Weekly Ordinary Time Earnings. For more information see

Stay

Permanently

Cost

From AUD6,140.00

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 see what your visa will cost use the [Visa Pricing Estimator](#). The estimator does not consider the second instalment or 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.

With this visa, you can

- live, work and study in Australia indefinitely
- sponsor eligible family members to come to Australia
- apply for Australian citizenship, if eligible.

[See all conditions](#)

[Check your eligibility](#)

You must

- be under 45 years old on the date you lodge your application, unless exempt
- be nominated for an occupation on the [Core Skills Occupation List](#)
- have at least 3 years relevant work experience, unless you are exempt
- have a positive skills assessment before you lodge your application, unless you are exempt
- meet minimum standards of [English language proficiency](#)
- meet health and character requirements.

Help with your visa

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

With this visa, you can

- stay in Australia indefinitely
- work and study in Australia
- enrol in Australia's public health care scheme, [Medicare](#)
- sponsor eligible relatives to come to Australia
- travel to and from Australia for 5 years
- apply for [Australian citizenship](#), if eligible.

Newly arrived residents may have 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.

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

Your permanent residency for citizenship purposes starts:

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

Include family

You can:

- include family members in your application when you apply
- add family members to your application after you apply but before we decide on your visa.

For this visa, your family members are:

- your partner
- your dependent child or stepchild
- your partner's dependent child or stepchild
- the dependent child or stepchild of your or your partner's dependent child or stepchild.

You can also include a subclass 457 visa or subclass 482 visa holder if we granted them that visa as a member of your family. To meet this requirement, they must hold the eligible visa and must be included in your application when you apply.

Family members who apply for the visa with you must meet our health and character requirements.

Family members who do not apply for the visa with you may also have to meet the requirements.

Cost

The visa costs AUD6,140.00 for the main applicant. Concession apply in limited circumstances.

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

To see what your visa will cost use the [Visa pricing estimator](#). The estimator does not consider the second instalment or other costs.

Second instalment

You must pay an extra charge called a second instalment for any family member aged 18 years or older who:

- applies for the visa with you, and
- has less than Functional English.

The second instalment for family members who apply for the visa with you is AUD4,890.00.

If you need to pay the second instalment, we will send you an invoice after you have met all other requirements for the visa.

Other costs

You might also have to pay other costs for:

- health checks
- police certificates

- 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, but not in immigration clearance.

If you are applying in Australia, you must hold a:

- substantive visa or
- [Bridging visa A](#), [Bridging visa B](#) or [Bridging visa C](#).

You can be in or outside Australia when we decide on your application.

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.

Your application can take longer to process if:

- you do not fill it in correctly
- you do not include all the documents we need or we need more information from you
- it takes us time to verify your information

Applications lodged with all necessary supporting documents ('complete applications') can generally be processed more quickly.

Your obligations

You and your family members must obey all Australian laws.

We expect that you will work for your nominating employer for at least 2 years if your visa is granted.

You agree to begin your employment within 6 months of:

- entry to Australia if you were granted the visa outside Australia
- the visa grant date if you were granted the visa in Australia

Travel

From the date we grant this visa, you can travel to and from Australia for up to 5 years.

After that period, you will need a [Resident Return \(RRV\)](#) visa to re-enter Australia as a permanent resident.

If you leave Australia after the expiry date of your travel facility, without being granted another permanent visa with a valid travel facility, for example a [Resident Return \(RRV\)](#), you might not be able to return to Australia as a permanent resident.

To see when your travel condition ends, use [VEVO](#).

Visa label

Australian visas are digital. You will not get a label in your passport. Skilled visa income thresholds are increasing in line with changes to annual Average Weekly Ordinary Time Earnings. For more information see

Have an eligible occupation

Your occupation must be on the [Core Skills Occupation List \(CSOL\)](#).

Have relevant work experience

Unless exempt, most applicants need to have at least 3 years relevant work experience in their occupation.

Applicants who are exempt from the skills assessment requirement are also exempt from the work experience requirement.

Licensing, registration or membership

You must be licensed, registered or a member of a professional body if it is mandatory in the state or territory you intend to work in.

Have a positive skills assessment

Most applicants need to have a skills assessment that shows they have the skills to work in the nominated position. Learn more about [skills assessments](#).

Exemption

You are exempt from having a skills assessment if you:

- have been nominated as an academic (university lecturer or faculty head at Academic Level A, B, C, D or E) by a university in Australia, or
- have been nominated as a scientist, researcher or technical specialist by an Australian government scientific agency, or

- currently hold a [Special Category \(subclass 444\)](#) or [New Zealand Citizen Family Relationship \(subclass 461\)](#) visa and have worked for the employer who nominated you, in the nominated position, for at least 2 years in the last 3 years prior to the date you applied for the visa

Be nominated

You must be nominated by an Australian employer whose business is actively and lawfully operating.

You must apply for the visa within 6 months of the nomination being approved.

We can't grant you a visa if:

- we are aware of adverse information about your nominator or any person associated with them, unless it is reasonable to disregard this information, or
- the nomination is withdrawn, or
- the position is no longer available

You might be eligible for a refund of the visa application charge depending on the circumstances.

Be this age

Usually, you must be under 45 years of age when you apply.

You are exempt from this criteria if any of the following applies to you:

- you are nominated as an academic (university lecturer or faculty head at Academic Level B, C D or E) by a university in Australia
- you are nominated as a scientist, researcher or technical (scientific) specialist at ANZSCO skill level 1 or 2 by a Federal, State or Territory government science agency, or an Australian university
- you currently hold a [Special Category \(subclass 444\)](#) or [New Zealand citizen's family member \(subclass 461\)](#) visa and have worked for the employer who nominated you, in the nominated position, for at least 2

years in the last 3 years immediately before you apply. The 2 years excludes periods of unpaid leave.

Meet our health requirement

You and any family members who apply for the visa with you must meet our [health requirement](#). We might ask for health information about family not coming to Australia with you.

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](#). We might ask for character information about family not coming to Australia with you.

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
 - sign an [Australian Values Statement](#) that confirms you will respect the Australian way of life and obey Australian laws.
-

Have this level of English language

You must have at least [competent English](#) to be granted this stream of the visa. Any dependent applicant who was aged at least 18 years on the day you make your application should provide evidence they have at least [functional English](#). If you can't show that they have functional English, you will need to pay the [second instalment of the visa application charge](#) when we ask you to.

Have paid back your debt to the Australian government

If you owe the Australian Government money, you must have paid it back or have a formal arrangement to pay it back.

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](#).

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 1

Before you apply

Get your skills assessed

Get a [skills assessment](#) if you need to. The assessment will prove you have the right skills and qualifications to do your job.

You must have received a positive outcome for your skills assessment before you apply for your visa. It cannot have been issued more than 3 years before the date you make your application.

Occupations in the CSOL are benchmarked to the 2022 version of ANZSCO. Where occupation classifications have changed through ANZSCO updates, a skills assessment under the earlier ANZSCO classification will generally be accepted if:

- the skills assessment issued is still valid (up to three years, or less if the assessing authority specifies a shorter period),
- the assessing authority was specified for the occupation at the time of the skills assessment, and
- the nominated occupation corresponds to the historical classification of the occupation in ANZSCO.

We do not accept skills assessments obtained for a subclass 485 visa.

Organise English exams

Make sure your English test results are current for this visa. Your English test results cannot have been issued more than three years before you make your application. You must also receive your test results before you lodge your visa application. Have English exams if necessary.

Get help with your application

Only some people can help you with your application. If you appoint someone to give you immigration assistance they must be:

- a [registered migration agent](#)
- a [legal practitioner](#), or
- an [exempt person](#).

You can appoint anyone to [receive documents](#) on your behalf relating to your visa matter.

Get the nomination Transaction Reference Number

Make sure your employer has submitted a nomination application. They will receive a nomination Transaction Reference Number (TRN) when they do.

Ask your employer for the TRN. You need it to apply for the visa. You do not need to wait for the nomination to be approved to lodge your visa application.

Your rights and your employer's obligations

Criminal and civil penalties can be applied to anyone who asks for, receives, offers or provides a benefit in exchange for visa sponsorship. Learn more about [work visa scams](#).

Step 2

Gather your documents

Provide accurate information

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

Identity documents

Provide the pages of your current passport showing your photo, personal details, and passport issue and expiry dates.

If you have changed your name for any reason, you must also provide evidence of this.

Documents that prove a change of name include:

- a marriage or divorce certificate
- change of name documents from an Australian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, or the relevant overseas authority
- documents that show other names you have been known by

Licensing, registration or membership

Provide evidence of any licence, registration or professional membership mandatory to perform the nominated occupation in the state or territory you intend to work in, if applicable.

If you are a doctor, provide one of these certificates issued by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency as proof of full registration:

- unconditional or general medical registration
- conditional specialist registration which allows you to practise only in your particular specialty with no further training or supervision requirements

If you are a barrister or solicitor, provide proof of admission to practise as a lawyer in the relevant state or territory.

Skills and qualifications documents

Provide either:

- documents that prove your skills and qualifications
- documents to prove you are exempt from proving your skills and qualifications

Proof of your skills and qualifications

Provide all of the following:

- a positive and valid skills assessment, if required.
- your curriculum vitae (CV) or resume
- qualifications and proof of work experience; such as employment references, if required.

Skills assessment exemption documents

If you are exempt from having a skills assessment, provide proof that:

- you have been nominated as an academic (university lecturer or faculty head at Academic Level A, B, C, D or E) by a university in Australia, or
- you are nominated as a scientist, researcher or technical (scientific) specialist at ANZSCO skill level 1 or 2 by a Federal, State or Territory government science agency, or an Australian university, or
- you currently hold a [Special Category \(subclass 444\)](#) or [New Zealand Citizen Family Relationship \(subclass 461\)](#) visa and have worked for the employer who nominated you, in the nominated position, for at least 2 years in the last 3 years prior to the date you applied for the visa

Age exemption documents

If you are 45 years old or older, provide documents to show you are exempt from the age eligibility criteria.

You are exempt from this criteria if any of the following apply to you:

- you are nominated as an academic (university lecturer or faculty head at Academic Level B, C D or E) by a university in Australia
- you are nominated as a scientist, researcher or technical (scientific) specialist at ANZSCO skill level 1 or 2 by a Federal, State or Territory government science agency, or an Australian university
- you currently hold a [Special Category \(subclass 444\)](#) or [New Zealand citizen's family member \(subclass 461\)](#) visa and have worked for the employer who nominated you, in the nominated position, for at least 2 years in the last 3 years immediately before you apply. The 2 years excludes periods of unpaid leave.

English language documents

Provide documents that show you have [Competent English](#).

Health documents

You do not need to provide health documents. If you have had medical exams, the results are sent to us by your doctor.

Character documents

Provide an Australian police certificate if you have spent a total of 12 months or more in Australia in the last 10 years since you turned 16. We only accept complete disclosure National Police Certificates issued by the [Australian Federal Police](#). We do not accept standard disclosure certificates or national police certificates issued by Australian state or territory police. For immigration purposes, Australian police certificates are valid for 12 months from the date of issue.

Also provide:

- an overseas police certificate from [every country](#), including your home country, where you have spent a total of 12 months or more in the last 10 years since you turned 16
 - if required, penal check letters are available by contacting espd@homeaffairs.gov.au and include the words "Front end load – Penal Check Letter" in the subject line of your email.
- military service records or discharge papers if you served in the armed forces of any country

Further information is available at: [Character requirements for visas](#)

Tell us you are getting help

To nominate someone to:

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

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

Partner documents

Provide:

- identity documents
- character documents

Provide either:

- your current marriage certificate or
- enough documents to prove your partner has been in a de facto relationship with you for at least 12 months before you apply

Documents that prove a de facto relationship include:

- joint bank account statements
- billing accounts in joint names
- joint leases or mortgages
- documents that show you have both lived at the same address

Proof of Functional English

You must show that your family member over 18 has [functional English](#).

If you can't show that your family member has functional English, you will need to pay the [second instalment](#) when we ask you to.

Dependants under 18 documents

For every dependant under 18 years who is applying with you provide:

- identity documents (if your child is under 5 years old you can include them in the application without a passport)
- proof of their relationship with you such as a birth or marriage certificate
- character documents, if applicable.

Parental responsibility documents

You must get consent for the child to come to Australia from anyone who:

- has a legal right to decide where the child lives and
- is not coming to Australia with the child.

They must complete either:

- [Form 1229 Consent form to grant an Australian visa to a child under the age of 18 years \(276KB PDF\)](#)
- a statutory declaration giving their consent for the child to visit Australia on this visa.

Include a document with the signature and photo of the person who completed the form or declaration, such as a:

- passport
- driver's licence.

Dependants over 18 documents

For every dependant 18 years old or older who is applying with you provide:

- identity documents
- documents about other relationships, if applicable
- character documents

Proof of dependence

You need to prove that this person is a family member and/or dependent on you. Provide:

- a completed [Form 47a Details of a child or other dependent family member aged 18 years or over \(307KB PDF\)](#)
- proof of your relationship with the dependent such as a birth certificate or adoption papers

You must also prove this person has been financially dependent on you for at least 12 months before you apply. You could provide:

- proof they live with you

- their tax records
- proof they are currently studying

For other family members, if applicable, provide evidence the person:

- holds a subclass 457 or subclass 482 visa
- was granted that visa because they were your family member and
- is included in your application for this subclass 186 visa

Proof of Functional English

You must show that your family member has [functional English](#).

If you can't show that your family member has functional English, you will need to pay the [second instalment](#) when we ask you to.

Translate

Have all non-English documents translated into English.

Provide original and translated documents in your application.

Translators in Australia must be accredited by the [National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters](#).

Translators outside Australia do not have to be accredited. But on each translation, they must include their:

- full name
- address and telephone number
- qualifications and experience in the language they are translating

These details must be in English.

Note: You do not need to have any documents certified.

Scan or photograph

Scan or photograph all documents (English and non-English) in colour.

The scans and photos must be clear.

If a document is more than one page, save it all as one file.

Step 3

Apply for the visa

Apply online in ImmiAccount

Provide accurate information

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

Apply for the visa online in ImmiAccount

1. Login or create an [ImmiAccount](#).
2. [Attach documents](#).
3. [Pay the application charge](#). We will not process your application until you pay.
4. Note the Transaction Reference Number (TRN).

Step 4

After you apply

See what you can and must do after you apply.

What will happen after you apply

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

Status updates

We can'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 decide on your application.

If you leave Australia, you must make sure you have a valid visa to return.

Learn about [visa expiry](#).

Learn about [Bridging visas](#).

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

We might ask you to provide more information. Attach any additional documents we ask you for as soon as possible in [ImmiAccount](#).

Stay lawful

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

When you apply for this visa in Australia, you are likely to be granted a bridging visa. If your current visa expires before we decide your application, the bridging visa will start. You can stay in Australia on the bridging visa while we process your new visa application.

Learn more about [visa expiry](#).

Pay the second instalment

If you need to pay a [second instalment](#), we will send you an invoice after you have met all other requirements for the visa.

Add family

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

For this visa your family members are:

- your partner
- your dependent child
- your partner's dependent child

Newborn children

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

Mistakes on your application

Let us know as soon as you can if you made a mistake on your application.

Complete [Form 1023 Notification of incorrect answers \(168KB PDF\)](#).

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

Tell us if things change after you submit your application but before we decide on your application.

Things you need to let us know about include:

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

See what to do [if your situation changes](#).

Step 5

Visa outcome

You can be inside or outside Australia when we decide on your visa application.

We must have approved your employer's nomination before we can grant you this visa.

We will let you know our decision about your visa application in writing.

If we grant your visa, we will tell you:

- your visa grant number
- the date your visa starts
- your visa conditions.

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 visa application charge if we refuse your application.

Coming to Australia

Before you travel

Check your travel documents

You must have:

- a valid visa to enter Australia

- a valid passport or other travel document

At the Border

Completing an Incoming Passenger Card

All people arriving to Australia must complete an [Incoming Passenger Card](#). You will be given this card during your flight.

Leaving the airport faster

We have an automated process that uses facial recognition technology and your ePassport. You might be able to leave the airport faster if you use [SmartGate](#).

New Zealand passport holders

If an immigration officer processes your clearance at our border, we recommend you tell them:

- you have a permanent Australian visa
- you do not want a Special Category visa (subclass 444)

If you do not tell them, you might be granted the 444 visa. Grant of a subclass 444 visa will override your permanent visa and might affect your eligibility for Australian citizenship.

In Australia

What you can do when you have this visa

This visa lets you:

- stay in Australia indefinitely
- work and study in Australia
- enrol in Australia's public health care scheme, [Medicare](#)
- sponsor eligible relatives to come to Australia
- travel to and from Australia for 5 years
- if eligible, become an [Australian citizen](#)

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

What you must do on this visa (your obligations)

You and your family members must obey all Australian laws.

You agree to begin your employment within 6 months of:

- entering Australia if we granted you the visa outside Australia
- the visa grant date if we granted you the visa in Australia

See how long you can stay

Permanently

Travelling on your visa

From the date we grant this visa, you can travel to and from Australia for up to 5 years.

After that period, you will need a [Resident Return \(RRV\)](#) visa to re-enter Australia as a permanent resident.

If you leave Australia after the expiry date of your travel facility, without being granted another permanent visa with a valid travel facility, for example a [Resident Return \(RRV\)](#), you will not be able to return to Australia as a permanent resident.

To see when your travel condition ends, use [VEVO](#).

Proving you have a visa

To prove you have a visa and show your conditions to someone, use [VEVO](#).

To prove you have been to Australia, [request your travel records](#).

Working

When you work in Australia, you are protected by Australian workplace law. [See your workplace rights and entitlements](#).

Bringing family

As an Australian permanent resident, you might be able to sponsor eligible relatives to come to Australia.

To find a visa for your relatives, [explore visa options](#).

Becoming an Australian citizen

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

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

- we grant 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.

Ensure your visa is still valid

Check your conditions and the expiry of your Resident Return visa in [VEVO](#).

See what you can and must 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 might be able to leave the airport faster if you use SmartGate [SmartGate](#).

After you leave

Proving you have been to Australia

To prove you have been to Australia, [request your travel records](#).

English language

Functional 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 functional English for up to 12 months, depending on the [visa subclass](#).

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

- 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 completed a degree, a higher degree, a diploma or a trade certificate in an institution in or outside Australia that required at least 2 years of full-time study or training, and all instructions were in English.
- You completed education at the institutions for the study times set out at Table 1.
- You achieved one of the test scores in Table 2 or Table 3 in the 12 months before your visa application.

Educational institutions	Study time
A primary school and secondary school, in or outside Australia, where all instruction was in English	All years of primary and at least 3 years of secondary education
A secondary school, in or outside Australia, where all instruction was in English	At least 5 years of secondary education

An institution in Australia, where all instruction was in English, towards one of the following awards:

- a degree
- a higher degree
- a diploma
- an associate diploma.

- At least 1 year of full-time study towards an award, or
- The part-time equivalent of 1 year of full-time study towards an award

Test	Scores
Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program General (CELPIP General)	An overall band score of at least 5
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 .	An average band score of at least 4.5
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 .	An average band score of at least 4.5

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](#).

An overall band score of at least 38

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.

An overall band score of at least 1020

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

LANGUAGECERT Academic Test (LANGUAGECERT Academic)

An overall band score of at least 38

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.

An overall band score of at least 24

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 may not be accepted for Australian visa purposes.

A total score of at least 26

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.	A total band score of at least 147
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.	An average band score of at least 4.5

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.

A total band score of at least 30

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.

A total band score of at least 32

* 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 2026, 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:

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

Annual indexation of skilled visa income thresholds from 1 July 2026



From 1 July 2026, skilled visa income thresholds will be increased by 3.8%. This is in line with changes to the annual [Average Weekly Ordinary Time Earnings \(AWOTE\)](#).

Income thresholds are indexed annually so wages for skilled migrants increase at the same rate as Australian workers. This ensures that people cannot use skilled migration to undercut Australian workers.

From 1 July 2026, indexation changes will be as follows:

- The Core Skills Income Threshold (CSIT) will increase from AUD76,515 to AUD79,423. This will impact nomination applications for the Core Skills stream of the Skills in Demand visa (subclass 482) and the Employer Nomination Scheme visa (subclass 186).
- The Specialist Skills Income Threshold (SSIT) will increase from AUD141,210 to AUD146,576. This will impact nomination applications for the Specialist Skills stream of the Skills in Demand visa (subclass 482).
- The Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold (TSMIT) will increase from AUD76,515 to AUD79,423. This will impact nomination applications for the Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional visa (subclass 494) and the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS) (subclass 187).

From 1 July 2026, new nomination applications must meet the new relevant income threshold.

This change will not apply to existing visa holders and nominations lodged before 1 July 2026.

Labour Agreement stream

This visa lets skilled workers nominated by their employer live and work in Australia permanently. The Labour Agreement stream might be for you if you currently work, or will work, for an employer who is party to a labour agreement.

Stay

Permanently

Cost

From AUD6,140.00

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 see what your visa will cost use the Visa Pricing Estimator. The estimator does not consider the second instalment or 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.

With this visa, you can

- live, work and study in Australia indefinitely
- sponsor eligible relatives to come to Australia
- apply for Australian citizenship, if eligible.

[See all conditions](#)

[Check your eligibility](#)

You must

- currently work, or be preparing to work, for your nominating employer who is party to a labour agreement
- meet the age, skills and English language requirements of the labour agreement.

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 indefinitely
- work and study in Australia
- enrol in Australia's public health care scheme, [Medicare](#)
- sponsor eligible relatives to come to Australia
- travel to and from Australia for 5 years
- apply for Australian citizenship, if eligible.

Newly arrived residents may have 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.

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

Your permanent residency for citizenship purposes starts:

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

Include family

You can:

- include family members in your application when you apply
- add family members to your application after you apply but before we decide on your visa.

For this visa, your family members are:

- your [partner](#)
- your [dependent child](#) or [stepchild](#)
- your partner's dependent child or stepchild
- the dependent child or stepchild of your or your partner's dependent child or stepchild.

You can also include a subclass 457 visa or subclass 482 visa holder if we granted them that visa as they are a member of your family.

Family members who apply for the visa with you must meet our health and character requirements.

Family members who do not apply for the visa with you might also have to meet the requirements.

Cost

The visa costs AUD6,140.00 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 see what your visa will cost use the [Visa pricing estimator](#). The estimator does not consider the second instalment or other costs.

Second instalment

You must pay an extra charge called a second instalment for any family member aged 18 years or older who:

- applies for the visa with you, and
- has less than Functional English

The second instalment for family members who apply for the visa with you is AUD4,890.

If you need to pay the second instalment, we will send you an invoice after you have met all other requirements for the visa.

Other costs

You might also have to pay other costs for:

- health checks
- police certificates
- 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, but not in immigration clearance.

If you are applying in Australia, you must hold a:

- substantive visa or
- [Bridging visa A](#), [Bridging visa B](#) or [Bridging visa C](#).

You can be in or outside Australia when we decide on your application.

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.

Your application might take longer to process if:

- you do not fill it in correctly
- you do not include all the documents we need or we need more information from you
- it takes us time to verify your information

We can't process your application if you do not pay the correct visa application charge. We will notify you if this is the case and if necessary return your application.

Your obligations

You and your family members must obey all Australian laws.

We expect that you will work for your nominating employer for at least 2 years.

You agree to begin your employment within 6 months of:

- entry to Australia if you were granted the visa outside Australia
- the visa grant date if you were granted the visa in Australia

Travel

From the date we grant this visa, you can travel to and from Australia for up to 5 years.

After that period, you will need a [Resident Return \(RRV\)](#) visa to re-enter Australia as a permanent resident.

If you leave Australia after the expiry date of your travel facility, without being granted another permanent visa with a valid travel facility, for example a [Resident Return \(RRV\)](#), you might not be able to return to Australia as a permanent resident.

To see when your travel condition ends, use [VEVO](#).

Visa label

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

Be working under a labour agreement

You must currently work, or plan to work, for your employer under a labour agreement.

You must have suitable English language skills, experience, skills and other attributes for the position. The labour agreement will provide guidance on these.

We might ask to get a skills assessment that shows you have the skills to work in the position. Do not get an assessment unless we ask you to.

Licensing, registration or membership

You must be licensed, registered or a member of a professional body if it is mandatory in the state or territory you intend to work in.

Be nominated

You must be nominated by an Australian employer whose business is:

- actively and lawfully operating in Australia
- party to a labour agreement.

Find out if your employer is [eligible to nominate you](#).

Learn more about terms and conditions of employment on the Sponsor tabs, About this visa - Your Obligations.

We can't grant you a visa if:

- we are aware of adverse information about your nominator or any person associated with them, unless it is reasonable to disregard this information, or
- the nomination is withdrawn, or
- the position is no longer available.

We can't link a new nomination to your existing visa application. If this happens one possible option is to withdraw your first visa application and submit a new visa application in relation to the new nomination.

You might be eligible for a refund of the visa application charge depending on the circumstances.

Be this age

Unless the labour agreement provides otherwise, you must be aged under 45 years when you apply.

Have this visa

If you are in Australia, you must hold a substantive 457 or 482 visa issued under a labour agreement.

Meet our health requirement

You and any family members who apply for the visa with you must meet our [health requirement](#). We might ask for health information about family not coming to Australia with you.

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](#). We might ask for character information about family not coming to Australia with you.

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
- sign an [Australian Values Statement](#) that confirms you will respect the Australian way of life and obey Australian laws.

Have paid back your debt to the Australian government

If you owe the Australian Government money, you must have paid it back or have a formal arrangement to pay it back.

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](#).

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 1

Before you apply

Get help with your application

Only some people can help you with your application. If you appoint someone to give you immigration assistance they must be:

- a [registered migration agent](#)
- a [legal practitioner](#), or
- an [exempt person](#).

You can appoint anyone to [receive documents](#) on your behalf relating to your visa matter.

Get the Nomination Transaction Reference Number

Make sure your employer has submitted a nomination application. They will receive a Transaction Reference Number (TRN) when they do.

You need the TRN to apply for the visa.

Your rights and your employer's obligations

Criminal and civil penalties can be applied to anyone who asks for, receives, offers or provides a benefit in exchange for visa sponsorship. Learn more about [work visa scams](#).

Step 2

Gather your documents

Provide accurate information

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

Main applicant documents

Identity documents

Provide the pages of your current passport showing your photo, personal details, and passport issue and expiry dates.

Also provide:

- a national identity card, if you have one
- proof of change of name

Documents that prove a change of name include:

- a marriage or divorce certificate
- change of name documents from an Australian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, or the relevant overseas authority
- documents that show other names you have been known by

Health documents

You do not need to provide health documents. If you have had medical exams, the results are sent to us by your doctor.

Character documents

Provide an Australian police certificate. We only accept complete disclosure National Police Certificates issued by the [Australian Federal Police](#). We do not accept standard disclosure certificates or national police certificates issued by Australian state or territory police. For immigration purposes, Australian police certificates are valid for 12 months from the date of issue.

Also provide:

- an overseas police certificate from [every country](#), including your home country, where you spent a total of 12 months or more in the last 10 years since you turned 16
 - if required, penal check letters are available by contacting espd@homeaffairs.gov.au and include the words “Front end load – Penal Check Letter” in the subject line of your email.
- military service records or discharge papers if you served in the armed forces of any country

Further information is available at: [Character requirements for visas](#)

Tell us you are getting help

To nominate someone to:

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

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

Partner documents

Provide:

- identity documents
- character documents

Provide either:

- your current marriage certificate or
- enough documents to prove your partner has been in a de facto relationship with you for at least 12 months before you apply

Documents that may prove a de facto relationship include:

- joint bank account statements
- billing accounts in joint names
- joint leases or mortgages
- documents that show you have both lived at the same address

Proof of Functional English

You must show that your partner has [functional English](#).

If you can't show that your partner has functional English, you will need to pay the [second instalment](#) when we ask you to.

Dependants under 18 documents

For every dependant under 18 years who is applying with you provide:

- identity documents (if your child is under 5 years old you can include them in the application without a passport)
- proof of their relationship with you such as a birth or marriage certificate
- character documents, if applicable.

Parental responsibility documents

You must get consent for the child to come to Australia from anyone who:

- has a legal right to decide where the child lives and
- is not coming to Australia with the child.

They must complete either:

- [Form 1229 Consent form to grant an Australian visa to a child under the age of 18 years \(276KB PDF\)](#)
- a statutory declaration giving their consent for the child to visit Australia on this visa.

Include a document with the signature and photo of the person who completed the form or declaration, such as a:

- passport
- driver's licence.

Dependants over 18 documents

For every dependant 18 years old or older who is applying with you, provide:

- identity documents
- documents about their other relationships, if applicable
- character documents

Proof of dependence

You need to prove that this person is a family member and/or dependent on you. Provide:

- a completed [Form 47a Details of a child or other dependent family member aged 18 years or over \(307KB PDF\)](#)
- proof of your relationship with the dependent such as a birth certificate or adoption papers

You must also prove this person has been financially dependent on you for at least 12 months before you apply. You could provide:

- proof they live with you
- their tax records
- proof they are currently studying

For other family members, if applicable, provide evidence the person:

- holds a subclass 457 or subclass 482 visa
- was granted that visa because they were your family member and
- is included in your application for this subclass 186 visa

Proof of Functional English

You must show us your family member has [functional English](#).

If you can't show that your family member has functional English, you will need to pay the [second instalment](#) when we ask you to.

Prepare your documents

Translate

Have all non-English documents translated into English.

Provide original and translated documents in your application.

Translators in Australia must be accredited by the [National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters](#).

Translators outside Australia do not have to be accredited. But on each translation, they must include their:

- full name

- address and telephone number
- qualifications and experience in the language they are translating

These details must be in English.

Note: You do not need to have any documents certified.

Scan or photograph

- Scan or photograph all documents (English and non-English) in colour.
- The scans and photos must be clear.
- If a document is more than one page, save it all as one file.

Step 3

Apply for the visa

Provide accurate information

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

Apply for the visa online in ImmiAccount

1. Login or create an [ImmiAccount](#).
2. [Attach documents](#).
3. [Pay the application charge](#). We will not process your application until you pay.
4. Note the Transaction Reference Number (TRN).

Step 4

After you apply

What will happen after you apply

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

Status updates

We can'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 decide on your application.

But if you leave Australia, make sure you have a valid visa to return.

Learn about [visa expiry](#).

Learn about [Bridging visas](#).

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 didn't attach all documents when you applied, attach them as soon as you can in ImmiAccount.

We might also ask you to provide more information.

Stay lawful

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

When you apply for this visa in Australia, you are likely to be granted a bridging visa. If your current visa expires before we decide your application, the bridging visa will start. You can stay in Australia on the bridging visa while we process your new visa application.

Learn more about [visa expiry](#).

Pay the second instalment

If you need to pay a [second instalment](#), we will send you an invoice after you have met all other requirements for the visa. Pay the instalment after you get the invoice.

Add family

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

For the purposes of adding family members to this visa your family members are:

- your partner
- your dependent child and stepchild
- your partner's dependent child and stepchild

Newborn children

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

Mistakes on your application

Let us know as soon as you can if you made a mistake on your application.

Complete [Form 1023 Notification of incorrect answers \(168KB PDF\)](#).

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

Tell us if things change after you submit your application but before we have made a decision.

Things you need to let us know about include:

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

See what to do if [your situation changes](#)

Step 5

Visa outcome

You can be in or outside Australia when we decide on your visa application.

We must have approved your employer's nomination before we can grant you this visa.

We will let you know our decision about your visa application in writing.

If we grant your visa, we will tell you:

- your visa grant number
- the date your visa starts
- your visa conditions.

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 visa application charge if we refuse your application.

Coming to Australia

Before you leave

Check your travel documents

You must have:

- a valid visa to enter Australia
- a valid passport or other travel document.

At the Border

Completing an Incoming Passenger Card

All people arriving Australia must complete an [Incoming Passenger Card](#). You will be given this card on-board.

Leaving the airport faster

We have an automated process that uses facial recognition technology and your ePassport. You might be able to leave the airport faster if you use [SmartGate](#).

New Zealand passport holders

If an immigration officer processes your clearance at our border, we recommend you tell them:

- you have a permanent Australian visa
- you do not want a Special Category visa (subclass 444)

If you do not tell them, you might be granted the 444 visa. Grant of a subclass 444 visa will override your permanent visa and might affect your eligibility for Australian citizenship.

In Australia

What you can do when you have this visa

This visa lets you:

- stay in Australia indefinitely
- work and study in Australia
- enrol in Australia's public health care scheme, [Medicare](#)
- sponsor eligible relatives to come to Australia
- travel to and from Australia for 5 years
- apply for Australian citizenship, if eligible.

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

What you must do on this visa

You and your family members must obey all Australian laws.

We expect that you will work for your nominating employer for at least 2 years.

You agree to begin your employment within 6 months of:

- entering Australia if we granted you the visa outside Australia
- the visa grant date if we granted you the visa in Australia.

Travelling on your visa

From the date we grant this visa, you can travel to and from Australia for up to 5 years.

After that period, you will need a [Resident Return \(RRV\)](#) visa to re-enter Australia as a permanent resident.

If you leave Australia after the expiry date of your travel facility, without being granted another permanent visa with a valid travel facility, for example a [Resident Return \(RRV\)](#), you will not be able to return to Australia as a permanent resident.

To see when your travel condition ends, use [VEVO](#).

Proving you have a visa

To prove you have a visa and show your conditions to someone, use [VEVO](#).

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

Working

When you work in Australia, you are protected by Australian workplace law. See [your workplace rights and entitlements](#).

Bringing family

As an Australian permanent resident, you might be able to sponsor eligible relatives to come to Australia.

To find a visa for your relatives, [explore visa options](#).

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 residency starts on the day:

- we grant 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.

Ensure your visa is still valid

Check your conditions and the expiry of your Resident Return visa in [VEVO](#).

See what you can and must 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 might be able to leave the airport faster if you use [SmartGate](#)

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.

Employer Nomination Scheme (subclass 186)

Temporary Residence Transition stream

This visa lets skilled workers nominated by their current employer live and work in Australia permanently.

Stay

Permanent

Cost

From AUD6,140.00

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 see what your visa will cost use the [Visa Pricing Estimator](#). The estimator does not consider the second instalment or 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.

With this visa, you can

- live, work and study in Australia indefinitely
- sponsor eligible family members to come to Australia
- apply for Australian citizenship, if eligible.

[See all conditions](#)

[Check your eligibility](#)

You must

- hold a subclass 457, 482 or eligible bridging visa
- usually, have worked in eligible sponsored employment for at least 2 years full time while holding a subclass 457 or 482 visa
- have a nomination from an Australian employer that we approved in the 6 months before you applied.

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 indefinitely
- work and study in Australia
- enrol in Australia's public health care scheme, [Medicare](#)
- sponsor eligible relatives to come to Australia
- travel to and from Australia for 5 years
- apply for Australian citizenship, if eligible.

Newly arrived residents may have 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.

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

Your permanent residency for citizenship purposes starts:

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

Include family

You can:

- include family members in your application when you apply
- add family members to your application after you apply but before we decide on your visa.

For this visa, your family members are:

- your partner
- your dependent child or stepchild
- your partner's dependent child or stepchild
- the dependent child or stepchild of your or your partner's dependent child or stepchild.

You can also include a subclass 457 visa or subclass 482 visa holder if we granted them that visa as they are a member of your family. To meet this requirement, they must hold the eligible visa and must be included in your application when you apply.

Family members who apply for the visa with you must meet our health and character requirements.

Family members who do not apply for the visa with you might also have to meet the requirements.

Cost

The visa costs AUD6,140.00 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 see what your visa will cost use the [Visa pricing estimator](#). The estimator does not consider the second instalment or other costs.

Second instalment

You must pay an extra charge called a second instalment for any family member aged 18 years or older who:

- applies for the visa with you, and
- has less than Functional English.

The second instalment for family members who apply for the visa with you is AUD4,890.

If you need to pay the second instalment, we will send you an invoice after you have met all other requirements for the visa.

Other costs

You might also have to pay other costs for:

- health checks
- police certificates
- 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, but not in immigration clearance.

If you are applying in Australia, you must hold a:

- substantive visa or
- [Bridging visa A](#), [Bridging visa B](#) or [Bridging visa C](#).

You can be in or outside Australia when we decide on your application.

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.

Your application can take longer to process if:

- you do not fill it in correctly
- you do not include all the documents we need or we need more information from you
- it takes us time to verify your information.

Your obligations

You and your family members must obey all Australian laws.

We expect that you will work for your nominating employer for at least 2 years.

You must begin your employment within 6 months of:

- entry to Australia if you were granted the visa outside Australia
- the visa grant date if you were granted the visa in Australia

Travel

From the date we grant this visa, you can travel to and from Australia for up to 5 years.

After that period, you will need a [Resident Return \(RRV\)](#) visa to re-enter Australia as a permanent resident.

If you leave Australia after the expiry date of your travel facility, without being granted another permanent visa with a valid travel facility, for example a [Resident Return \(RRV\)](#), you might not be able to return to Australia as a permanent resident.

To see when your travel condition ends, use [VEVO](#).

Visa label

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

Have the required skills

You must have the required skills and qualifications needed to perform the tasks of the nominated occupation.

We might ask you to get a skills assessment to show you have these skills.

Have 2 years eligible sponsored employment in the 3 years prior to your application

You must have been employed in eligible sponsored employment for a total of 2 years in the 3 years prior to the date you apply for your visa.

Eligible sponsored employment must be:

- full-time
- undertaken in Australia
- undertaken while holding a subclass 457,482 or eligible bridging visa
- undertaken in an occupation you were granted a subclass 457 or subclass 482 visa to perform.

If you have held multiple subclass 457 or 482 visas in the 3 years prior to your application, sponsored employment can be counted in any occupation you were approved to work in.

If you have changed employers in the 3 years prior to your application, sponsored employment can be counted from the date an approved nomination was lodged, if you started working with them before the nomination was approved.

Licensing, registration or membership

You must be licensed, registered or a member of a professional body if it is mandatory in the state or territory you intend to work in.

Be nominated by the employer who sponsored your temporary work visa

Your employer must have been the last person to sponsor you to work full-time on your subclass 457 or subclass 482 visa.

Eligible business

You must be nominated by an Australian employer whose business is actively and lawfully operating in Australia.

You must apply for the visa within 6 months of the nomination being approved.

Find out if your employer is [eligible to nominate you](#).

We can't grant you a visa if:

- we are aware of adverse information about your nominator or any person associated with them, unless it is reasonable to disregard this information, or
- the nomination is withdrawn, or
- the position is no longer available

We can't link a new nomination to your existing visa application. If this happens you may choose to withdraw your first visa application and submit a new visa application in relation to the new nomination.

You might be eligible for a refund of the visa application charge depending on the circumstances.

Be this age

Usually, you must be under 45 years of age when you apply.

You are exempt from this criterion if any of the following applies to you:

- You are nominated as an academic (university lecturer or faculty head at Academic Level A, B, C, D or E) by a university in Australia
- You are nominated as a scientist, researcher or technical specialist at ANZSCO skill level 1 or 2 by an Australian scientific government agency or Australian university
- You are nominated as a medical practitioner and in the 3 years immediately before you apply have worked in that occupation in a designated regional area of Australia for at least 2 years as a subclass 457 or 482 visa holder. The nominated position is in a designated regional area of Australia.
- As a subclass 457 or 482 visa holder, you have worked in eligible sponsored employment for at least 2 years during the 3 years ending immediately before you apply, and your earnings for each year of that period were at least as much as the [Fair Work High Income Threshold](#).

Transitional arrangements

If you held (or had applied for and were later granted) a subclass 457 visa on 18 April 2017, you can still apply for this visa if you are under 50 when you apply.

Have this level of English language

You must have at least [Competent English](#).

From 16 November 2019, there is no exemption to the English language requirement for this stream of the visa.

Have this visa

You must currently be the primary visa holder of either a:

- [subclass 457 visa](#) (any stream)
 - [subclass 482 visa](#) (any stream)
 - Bridging visa associated with a subclass 457, 482, 186 or 187 application, if your last substantive visa was a subclass 457 or 482.
-

Meet our health requirement

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

We might ask for health information about family not coming to Australia with you.

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](#).

We might ask for character information about family not coming to Australia with you.

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
- sign an [Australian Values Statement](#) that confirms you will respect the Australian way of life and obey Australian laws

Have paid back your debt to the Australian government

If you owe the Australian Government money, you must have paid it back or have a formal arrangement to pay it back.

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](#).

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 1

Before you apply

You might need to organise English and health exams.

Organise English exams

Make sure your English test results are current for this visa. Your English test results cannot have been issued more than three years before you make your application. You must also receive your test results before you lodge your visa application. Have English exams if necessary.

Get help with your application

Only some people can help you with your application. If you appoint someone to give you immigration assistance they must be:

- a [registered migration agent](#)
- a [legal practitioner](#), or
- an [exempt person](#).

You can appoint anyone to [receive documents](#) on your behalf relating to your visa matter.

Get the nomination TRN

Make sure your employer has submitted a nomination application. They will receive a nomination Transaction Reference Number (TRN) when they do.

You need the TRN to apply for the visa. You do not need to wait for the nomination to be approved to lodge your visa application.

Your rights and your employer's responsibilities

Criminal and civil penalties can be applied to anyone who asks for, receives, offers or provides a benefit in exchange for visa sponsorship. Learn more about [work visa scams](#).

Step 2

Gather your documents

Gather and prepare these documents.

Provide accurate information

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

Identity documents

Provide the pages of your current passport showing your photo, personal details, and passport issue and expiry dates.

If you have changed your name for any reason, you must also provide evidence of this. Documents that prove a change of name include:

- a marriage or divorce certificate
- change of name documents from an Australian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, or the relevant overseas authority
- documents that show other names you have been known by

Licencing, registrations and memberships

Provide evidence of any licence, registration or professional membership mandatory to perform the nominated occupation in the state or territory you intend to work in, if applicable.

Skills assessment

We will ask you to undertake a skills assessment if you are required to do so.

Work experience documents

Provide documents that verify your work experience for all periods of eligible sponsored employment. These documents should include:

- the employment period
- any paid leave taken
- any unpaid leave taken
- any overseas trips for training or work.

Also provide:

- PAYG payment summaries for the period of employment
- employment contracts
- payslips
- extracts of leave records.

Age exemption documents

If you are 45 years old or older, provide documents to show you are exempt from the age eligibility criteria.

You are exempt from this criterion if any of the following applies to you:

- You are nominated as an academic (university lecturer or faculty head at Academic Level A, B, C, D or E) by a university in Australia
- You are nominated as a scientist, researcher or technical specialist at ANZSCO skill level 1 or 2 by an Australian scientific government agency or Australian university
- You are nominated as a medical practitioner and in the 3 years immediately before you apply have worked in that occupation in a designated regional area of Australia for at least 2 years as a subclass 457 or 482 visa holder. The nominated position is in a designated regional area of Australia.
- As a subclass 457 or 482 visa holder, you have worked in eligible sponsored employment for at least 2 years during the 3 years ending immediately before you apply, and your earnings for each year of that period were at least as much as the [Fair Work High Income Threshold](#).

English language documents

Provide documents that show you have [Competent English](#) at the time you submit your application.

From 16 November 2019, there is no exemption to the English language requirement for this stream of the visa.

Health documents

You do not need to provide health documents. If you have had medical exams, the results are sent to us by your doctor.

Character documents

Provide an Australian police certificate if you have spent a total of 12 months or more in Australia in the last 10 years since you turned 16. We only accept complete disclosure National Police Certificates issued by the [Australian Federal Police](#). We do not accept standard disclosure certificates or national police certificates issued by Australian state or territory police. For immigration purposes, Australian police certificates are valid for 12 months from the date of issue.

Also provide:

- an overseas police certificate from [every country](#), including your home country, where you spent a total of 12 months or more in the last 10 years since you turned 16
 - if required, penal check letters are available by contacting espd@homeaffairs.gov.au and include the words “Front end load – Penal Check Letter” in the subject line of your email.
- military service records or discharge papers if you served in the armed forces of any country

Further information is available at: [Character requirements for visas](#)

Tell us you are getting help

To nominate someone to:

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

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

Partner documents

Provide:

- identity documents
- character documents

Provide either:

- your current marriage certificate or
- enough documents to prove your partner has been in a de facto relationship with you for at least 12 months before you apply

Documents that prove a de facto relationship include:

- joint bank account statements
- billing accounts in joint names
- joint leases or mortgages
- documents that show you have both lived at the same address

Proof of Functional English

You must show that any dependent applicant who was aged at least 18 years on the day you make your application has at least has [Functional English](#).

If you can't prove Functional English

If you can't show that they have functional English, you will need to pay the [second instalment](#) when we ask you to.

Dependants under 18 documents

For every dependant under 18 years who is applying with you provide:

- identity documents (if your child is under 5 years old you can include them in the application without a passport)
- proof of their relationship with you such as a birth or marriage certificate
- character documents, if applicable.

Parental responsibility documents

You must get consent for the child to come to Australia from anyone who:

- has a legal right to decide where the child lives and
- is not coming to Australia with the child.

They must complete either:

- [Form 1229 Consent form to grant an Australian visa to a child under the age of 18 years \(276KB PDF\)](#)
- a statutory declaration giving their consent for the child to visit Australia on this visa.

Include a document with the signature and photo of the person who completed the form or declaration, such as a:

- passport
- driver's licence.

Dependants over 18

For every dependant 18 years old or older who is applying with you, provide:

- identity documents
- documents about their other relationships, if applicable
- character documents

Proof of dependence

You need to prove that this person is a family member and/or dependent on you. Provide:

- a completed [Form 47a Details of a child or other dependent family member aged 18 years or over \(307KB PDF\)](#)
- proof of your relationship with the dependent such as a birth certificate or adoption papers

You must also prove this person has been financially dependent on you for at least 12 months before you apply. You could provide:

- proof they live with you
- their tax records
- proof they are currently studying

For other family members, if applicable, provide evidence the person:

- holds a subclass 457 or subclass 482 visa
- was granted that visa because they were your family member and
- is included in your application for this subclass 186 visa

Proof of Functional English

You must prove your family member over 18 has [Functional English](#).

If you can't prove Functional English

If you can't show your family member has Functional English, you will need to pay the [second instalment](#) when we ask you to.

Prepare your documents

Translate

Have all non-English documents translated into English.

Provide original and translated documents in your application.

Translators in Australia must be accredited by the [National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters](#).

Translators outside Australia do not have to be accredited. But on each translation, they must include their:

- full name

- address and telephone number
- qualifications and experience in the language they are translating

These details must be in English.

Scan or photograph

Scan or photograph all documents (English and non-English) in colour.

The scans and photos must be clear.

If a document is more than one page, save it all as one file.

Step 3

Apply for the visa

Apply for this visa online with ImmiAccount.

Provide accurate information

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

Apply for the visa online in ImmiAccount

1. Log in or create an [ImmiAccount](#).
2. [Attach documents](#).
3. [Pay the application charge](#). We will not process your application until you pay.
4. Note the Transaction Reference Number.

Step 4

After you apply

See what you can and must do after you apply.

What will happen after you apply

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

Status updates

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

Wait for us to contact you.

Travel after you apply**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

We might ask you to provide more information. Attach any additional documents we ask you for as soon as possible in [ImmiAccount](#).

Stay lawful

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

When you apply for this visa in Australia, you are likely to be granted a bridging visa. If your current visa expires before we decide your application, the bridging visa will start. You can stay in Australia on the bridging visa while we process your new visa application.

Learn more about [visa expiry](#).

Pay the second instalment

If you need to pay a [second instalment](#), we will send you an invoice after you have met all other requirements for the visa.

Add family

You can add family members to your application before we decide on your visa.

For the purpose of adding family members to this visa, your family members are:

- your partner
- your dependent child and stepchild
- your partner's dependent child and stepchild

Newborn children

Find out what to do if you [had a baby](#).

Mistakes on your application

Let us know as soon as you can if you made a mistake on your application.

Complete [Form 1023 Notification of incorrect answers \(168KB PDF\)](#).

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

Tell us if things change after you submit your application but before we decide on your application.

Things you need to let us know about include:

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

See what to do [if your situation changes](#).

Additional information for after you apply

We might ask you to get a [skills assessment](#).

Step 5

Visa outcome

You can be inside or outside Australia when we decide on your application.

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 visa application charge if we refuse your application.

Coming to Australia

Before you leave

Check your travel documents

You must have:

- a valid visa to enter Australia
- a valid passport or other travel document

At the Border

Completing an Incoming Passenger Card

All people arriving Australia must complete an [Incoming Passenger Card](#). You will be given this card during your flight.

Leaving the airport faster

We have an automated process that uses facial recognition technology and your ePassport. You might be able to leave the airport faster if you use [SmartGate](#)

New Zealand passport holders

If an immigration officer processes your clearance at our border, we recommend you tell them:

- you have a permanent Australian visa
- you do not want a Special Category visa (subclass 444)

If you do not tell them, you might be granted the 444 visa. Grant of a subclass 444 visa will override your permanent visa and might affect your eligibility for Australian citizenship.

In Australia

What you can do when you have this visa

This visa lets you:

- stay in Australia indefinitely
- work and study in Australia
- enrol in Australia's public health care scheme, [Medicare](#)
- sponsor eligible relatives to come to Australia
- travel to and from Australia for 5 years
- apply for Australian citizenship, if eligible

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

What you must do on this visa (your obligations)

You and your family members must obey all Australian laws.

Tell us if things change

Things you need to let us know about when you have this visa include:

- changes to your phone number, email, address or passport
- changes to your relationship status
- the birth of a child

See how to let us know if there is a [change in your situation](#).

See how long you can stay

Permanently

Travelling on your visa

From the date we grant this visa, you can travel to and from Australia for up to 5 years.

After that period, you will need a [Resident Return \(RRV\)](#) visa to re-enter Australia as a permanent resident.

If you leave Australia after the expiry date of your travel facility, without being granted another permanent visa with a valid travel facility, for example a [Resident Return \(RRV\)](#), you might not be able to return to Australia as a permanent resident.

To see when your travel condition ends, use [VEVO](#).

Proving you have a visa

To prove you have a visa and show your conditions to someone, use [VEVO](#)

To prove you have been to Australia, [request your travel records](#).

Working

When you work in Australia, you are protected by Australian workplace law. See your [workplace rights and entitlements](#).

Bringing family

As an Australian permanent resident, you might be able to sponsor eligible relatives to come to Australia.

To find a visa for your relatives, [explore visa options](#).

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 residency starts on the day:

- we grant 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.

Ensure your visa is still valid

Check your conditions and the expiry of your Resident Return visa in [VEVO](#)

See what you can and must 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 might be able to leave the airport faster if you use [SmartGate](#).

After you leave

Proving you have been to Australia

To prove you have been to Australia, [request your travel records](#).