



Subclass 500

Student visa

Visit Australia to participate in a course of study.

Overview

Stay

Up to 5 years and in line with your enrolment.

Cost

From AUD630, unless exempt.

Processing times

[Processing times \(/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/global-visa-processing-times\)](#) vary

With this visa you can

- participate in an eligible course of study
- bring [family members \(/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500?bk=aboutVisa-index-3#About\)](#) to Australia with you
- apply online in or outside Australia
- work unlimited hours in any sector. See [Temporary changes to visa work conditions for Students and Working Holiday Makers \(https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/news-media/archive/article?itemId=813\)](#).

[See all conditions \(/visas/already-have-a-visa/check-visa-details-and-conditions/see-your-visa-conditions?product=500\)](#)

[Check your eligibility \(#Eligibility\)](#)

You must

- be enrolled in a course of study in Australia
- hold Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC), or fall in one of the exemption categories
- must be 6 years or older
- prove you have a [welfare arrangement \(/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500/welfare-arrangements-students-under-18\)](#), if you are under 18
- If in Australia hold an eligible substantive visa. See, '[Have this Visa if applying while in Australia \(/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500?bk=Eligibility-index-7#Eligibility\)](#)' in Eligibility Tab.

[Ask a question](#)

Note:

- A substantive visa ceases to be in effect if another substantive visa is granted
- Applications are received Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST) (or Australian Eastern daylight standard time (AEDST) when applicable)

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 \(/help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/overview\)](#).

[Apply](https://online.immi.gov.au/elp/app?action=new&formId=STU-AP-500) (<https://online.immi.gov.au/elp/app?action=new&formId=STU-AP-500>)

About this visa

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With this visa you can

- participate in an eligible course of study in Australia
- travel in and out of Australia
- as a temporary measure, you can work unlimited hours in any sector. See [Temporary changes to visa work conditions for Students and Working Holiday Makers \(https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/news-media/archive/article?itemId=813\)](#).

[Ask a question](#)

How long you can stay

This is a temporary visa to study up to 5 years. The type of course and its length will determine the [length of stay](#) (</visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500/length-of-stay>).

Primary school children enrolled in years 1-4 will generally only be granted a student visa for a maximum period of 3 years.

Stay longer

To continue studying in Australia, you must apply for a new Student visa.

If your Student visa will expire before your graduation you might be eligible for a Visitor visa (subclass 600). You will need a letter from your education provider with the date of your graduation.

If you hold or held a student visa and completed specific qualifications in Australia in the last six months, you might be eligible for a [Temporary Graduate visa \(subclass 485\)](#) (</visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-graduate-485/>).

If you are a recent engineering graduate of a recognized institution you might be eligible for the [Skilled Recognition Graduate visa \(subclass 476\)](#) (</visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/skilled-recognition-graduate-476/>).

If you want to stay longer for other reasons, you must apply for a new visa that suits your circumstances. [Explore your visa options](#) (</visas/getting-a-visa/visa-finder/>).

Include family

You can include family members when you lodge your visa application. For student visas, your family member is:

- your partner, or
- your or your partner's dependent child who is unmarried and has not turned 18 years of age.

We cannot grant a student visa to your child if they have turned 18 years at the time your visa is finalised. They need to apply for their own visa.

You must declare your family members in your student visa application even if they do not plan to travel with you to Australia. If you do not do this, your family members will not be eligible for a student visa to join you in Australia.

Your family members can also apply as a subsequent entrant (at a later time, separate from your application) in [ImmiAccount](#) (</help-support/applying-online-or-on-paper/online/>).

Family members who apply for the visa must meet our requirements for [health](#) (</help-support/meeting-our-requirements/health/>) and [character](#) (</help-support/meeting-our-requirements/character/>).

Check the annual school costs you will need to pay for any dependent children to go to either public or private schools in Australia.

For more information see 'Evidence you have enough money for your stay' section under [Gather documents](#) (</visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500#HowTo>).

Cost

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The visa costs from AUD630 for the main applicant, unless they are [exempt \(/visas/getting-a-visa/fees-and-charges/current-visa-pricing/study\)](#).

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

Students who were unable to complete their course within their original student visa validity due to COVID-19 and need to apply for a further student visa to complete their study may be eligible for a fee-waiver. See [COVID-19 and the border – Student visa \(https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/student-visa\)](#).

You might also have to pay other costs for health checks, police certificates and [biometrics](#).

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

Apply from

You can be in or outside Australia when you apply for the visa and when we decide on your application.

Packaged courses

You will need to give us Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) for each course. The last course you take as part of the course package is your main course of study. We use your main course of study to work out what financial and English language skills evidence you must give us.

If your visa application includes a package of courses, course gaps must be less than two calendar months, unless the first course finishes at the end of the standard academic year and the next course commences at the beginning of the standard academic year.

For example, the academic year generally ends in November and starts again in February the following year, three to four months is an acceptable gap between courses.

Standard visa grant periods apply to packaged courses.

Processing times

We process:

- Foreign Affairs or Defence Sector
 - 25% of applications in 7 days
 - 50% of applications in 14 days
 - 75% of applications in 29 days
 - 90% of applications in 57 days
- Postgraduate Research Sector
 - 25% of applications in 15 days
 - 50% of applications in 28 days
 - 75% of applications in 3 months
 - 90% of applications in 6 months

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- Non-Award Sector
 - 25% of applications in Less than 1 day
 - 50% of applications in 2 days
 - 75% of applications in 14 days
 - 90% of applications in 22 days

- Schools Sector
 - 25% of applications in 17 days
 - 50% of applications in 29 days
 - 75% of applications in 59 days
 - 90% of applications in 5 months

- Independent ELICOS Sector
 - 25% of applications in 17 days
 - 50% of applications in 28 days
 - 75% of applications in 4 months
 - 90% of applications in 15 months

- Vocational Education and Training Sector
 - 25% of applications in 26 days
 - 50% of applications in 89 days
 - 75% of applications in 7 months
 - 90% of applications in 11 months

- Higher Education Sector
 - 25% of applications in 10 days
 - 50% of applications in 19 days
 - 75% of applications in 38 days
 - 90% of applications in 5 months

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

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.

Processing times are available through [Global Visa Processing Times \(/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/global-visa-processing-times\)](/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/global-visa-processing-times).

Your obligations

You and your family must meet all visa conditions and follow Australian laws.

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See [which conditions will and might be attached to this visa. \(/visas/already-have-a-visa/check-visa-details-and-conditions/see-your-visa-conditions?product=500\)](https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/already-have-a-visa/check-visa-details-and-conditions/see-your-visa-conditions?product=500)

Travel

You can travel outside Australia and return as many times as you want while the visa is valid.

The time you spend outside Australia does not extend the visa.

Visa label

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

Eligibility

Be a certain age (school student)

If you are a school student (but not participating in a secondary school student exchange program), you must be aged 6 or older to apply for this visa.

You must also be:

- less than 17 years old when you begin Year 9
- less than 18 years old when you begin Year 10
- less than 19 years old when you begin Year 11
- less than 20 years old when you begin Year 12

Be enrolled in a course of study and provide evidence

You must include evidence of enrolment in study with your student visa application, or your application will not be valid and can't be processed.

Providing a Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE)

You must be enrolled in a full time course registered on the [Commonwealth Register of Institutions and courses for Overseas Students \(CRICOS\)](http://cricos.education.gov.au/) (<http://cricos.education.gov.au/>).

Applying outside Australia: provide a Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) for each course of study with your visa application.

Applying inside Australia: provide a CoE or Letter of Offer for all intended courses. You must provide your CoE before we can grant your visa.

Packaged courses and CoEs

If you are applying for more than 1 course in your student visa application you must include all CoE codes in the application form or your visa period may only consider the duration of the course according to the the CoE provided.

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You can apply to take 2 or more courses on your Student visa where one course clearly leads to the next. Course gaps must be less than two calendar months, unless the first course finishes at the end of the standard academic year and the next course commences at the beginning of the standard academic year.

If you are applying for more than 1 course in your student visa application you must include all CoE codes in the application form or your visa may only cover the CoE provided.

Other evidence of enrolment

You do not need to provide a Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) if you are:

- enrolled in a full-time course of study or training under a scholarship scheme approved by the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade: provide a letter of support
- sponsored by the Australian Department of Defence: provide a letter of support
- a secondary exchange student: provide an Acceptance Advice of Secondary Exchange Student (AASES) form
- a postgraduate research student who needs to stay in Australia while your thesis is marked: provide a letter from your education provider

Make welfare arrangements if you are under 18 years

If you are applying for a student visa and you are under 18 years of age, you must have adequate welfare arrangements in place while you are in Australia.

If you will be 18 years of age when you arrive in Australia, you must tell us as you might not need to provide some of this information. Learn more about this and [welfare arrangements for student visa holders. \(/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500/welfare-arrangements-students-under-18\)](#)

Meet English language requirements

You might need to provide evidence of your English language skills at the time you submit your visa application. To find out the evidence you need to provide use the [Document Checklist tool \(/visas/web-evidentiary-tool\)](#).

We allow extra time for you to provide English language test results if you were unable to take a test because of COVID-19. See: [COVID-19 and the Border \(https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/\)](https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/).

Note: We can ask you for evidence of your English language skill after you have submitted your application, at any time while we are processing your application, even though the Document Checklist tool shows that you don't need to provide evidence of your English language skill when you submit your application.

If you need to provide evidence of your English language skill, you must provide evidence that you:

- have obtained a certain test score in an English language test that the Department has approved, or
- fall into an exemption category listed below

English language tests

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The table below shows the English language test providers and the minimum overall band scores you must achieve to meet the Student visa English language requirement.

You must have taken the English language test in the 2 years before you apply for a student visa.

English language test providers	Minimum score	Minimum score and at least 10 weeks English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS)	Minimum score and at least 20 weeks ELICOS
International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (https://www.ielts.org/)	5.5	5	4.5
TOEFL internet-based test (http://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/about)	46	35	32
Cambridge English: Advanced (Certificate in Advanced English) (http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-tests/advanced)	162	154	147
Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic) (https://pearsonpte.com/the-test)	42	36	30
Occupational English Test (https://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/)	B for each test component	N/A	N/A

English language evidence exemptions

You do not need to provide evidence of an English test score with your visa application if one of the following applies:

- you are a citizen and hold a passport from UK, USA, Canada, NZ or Republic of Ireland
- you are an applicant who is a Foreign Affairs or, Defence sponsored student or a Secondary Exchange student (AASES)
- you are enrolled in a principal course of study that is a registered school course, a standalone English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students (ELICOS), a course registered to be delivered in a language other than English, or a registered post-graduate research course
- you have completed at least 5 years' study in English in one or more of the following countries: Australia, UK, USA, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, or the Republic of Ireland
- in the 2 years before applying for the student visa, you completed, in Australia and in the English language, either the Senior Secondary Certificate of Education or a substantial component of a course leading to a qualification from the Australian Qualifications Framework at the Certificate IV or higher level, while you held a student visa.

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Have adequate health insurance

You and your family members must have and maintain [adequate health insurance \(/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/health/adequate-health-insurance\)](#) for the whole of your stay in Australia. To find out the length of coverage you will require, see [student visa grant periods \(/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500/length-of-stay\)](#).

You and your family members must be covered by [Overseas Student Health Cover \(OSHC\)](#) (https://www.privatehealth.gov.au/health_insurance/overseas/overseas_student_health_cover.htm) from an approved Australian health insurance provider, unless an 'Exception' applies.

Applicants outside Australia

Your cover must start from the day you and your family arrive in Australia, not the day your course starts.

If you have been granted a visa and want to travel to Australia before your course begins, the OSHC start date must be the same as the date you arrive, not the date your course starts. Generally this is a minimum of 1 week to 1 month before your course starts.

You must:

- ensure you don't enter Australia before your OSHC begins, and
- maintain your OSHC until you leave Australia.

You may be refused entry to Australia if you cannot prove you have health insurance in place when you arrive.

Applicants in Australia

Applicants must have OSHC. If your previous visa required you to have health insurance, cover must be continuous with no gap between your previous health cover and your OSHC.

Exceptions

You do not need to have OSHC if you are:

- a Norwegian student covered by the Norwegian National Insurance Scheme
- a Swedish student covered by Kammarkollegiet
- a Belgian student covered under the Reciprocal Health Care Agreement with Australia

How to get Overseas Student Health Cover

To get OSHC:

- find an approved provider
- pay for your policy

Your education provider or agent might arrange OSHC for you.

If your education provider arranges your OSHC coverage, you will need to know the name of your health insurance provider, the date that your policy starts and finishes and should be aware of the terms and conditions of your policy. Your education provider will also need to include your health insurance information on your Certificate of Enrolment (CoE).

[Ask a question](#)

If you arrange OSHC coverage yourself, you will need to know the policy number to include in the visa application.

We will refuse your visa application if you don't give us this information when you apply for your student visa.

Insurance for family members

If you have a single OSHC policy and you have family members, including children born in Australia after your arrival, consider getting a family policy. Every member of your family must have health insurance.

Any family member who joins you after you arrive in Australia must show us they have OSHC for the duration of their stay in Australia.

Have this visa if applying while in Australia

If you are in Australia:

You must hold an eligible substantive visa, or apply

- within 28 days of holding a Student visa, a Special Purpose visa, or a dependent Diplomatic (temporary) visa or
- within 28 days of being notified by the Tribunal that your visa cancellation has been set aside.

If you do not hold a substantive visa, you can't apply for a student visa if you have ever held a substantive visa that you applied for in Australia while unlawful.

Note: a bridging visa is not a substantive visa.

If you have one of these visas, you can't apply for this visa while you are in Australia:

- Domestic Worker (Temporary) Diplomatic and Consular visa (subclass 426)
- Temporary Work (International Relations) visa (subclass 403) in the Domestic Worker (Diplomatic or consular) stream
- Diplomatic (Temporary) visa (subclass 995) – primary visa holder only. A family member of a Diplomatic (Temporary) visa (subclass 995) can apply for a Student visa in Australia
- Transit visa (subclass 771)
- Visitor visa (subclass 600) in the Sponsored Family stream or in the Approved Destination Status stream

Have enough money for your stay

You must have enough money to pay for your stay in Australia. To see how much money you need to have for cost of living, your course and travel expenses go to [Gather Documents in the 'Step by Step' \(/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500#HowTo\)](#).

Be a genuine temporary entrant

You must be a [genuine temporary entrant \(/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500/genuine-temporary-entrant\)](#) and intend to return home after studying in Australia.

[Ask a question](#)

Meet our character requirement

You and family members aged 16 years and over who apply for the visa must meet our [character requirement](/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/character) (</help-support/meeting-our-requirements/character>).

Meet our health requirement

You and any family members who apply for the visa must meet our [health requirement](/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/health) (</help-support/meeting-our-requirements/health>).

Extra time will also be given for health checks where COVID-19 disrupted access to services.. See: [COVID-19 and the Border](https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/) (<https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/>).

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](/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/australian-values) (</help-support/meeting-our-requirements/australian-values>) and
 - sign an [Australian Values Statement](/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/australian-values) (</help-support/meeting-our-requirements/australian-values>) 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 or any family members (including those who don't apply for the visa with you) owe the Australian government money, you or they must have paid it back or arranged to pay it back.

Not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused

You might not be granted this visa if you have had a visa cancelled or refused while you were in Australia.

Check if visa cancellation affects your eligibility (</entering-and-leaving-australia/entering-australia/can-i-go-to-australia/check-if-visa-cancellation-or-refusal-affects-you>).

Best interests of the child

We might not grant this visa if it is not in the best interests of an applicant under 18.

Meet all these criteria? Check how to apply in our [step by step \(How to\)](#) guide. [Ask a question](#)

Step by step

Step 1

Before you apply

Outside Australia - Apply for your visa at least 6 weeks before your course starts.

In Australia - Allow plenty of time to apply for your next visa, avoid waiting to the last day your current substantive visa expires in case of unexpected complications, as we may not always be able to help you.

Organise health exams

You might need to have health examinations (</help-support/meeting-our-requirements/health>). You can complete them before you apply.

Find out the examinations you need (</help-support/meeting-our-requirements/health>) and how to arrange them if you want to have them 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 (</help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/using-a-migration-agent>)
- a legal practitioner (</help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/using-a-legal-practitioner>), or
- an exempt person (</help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/exempt-person>).

You can appoint anyone to receive documents (</help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/authorised-recipient>) on your behalf relating to your visa matter.

Have a valid passport

You and your family members must hold a valid passport in order to lodge a student visa application.

If you are in Australia and your current passport expires, you will need to renew it before you apply for your student visa.

Ask a question

Step 2

Gather your documents

To see what you will need to provide evidence of, use the [Document Checklist Tool \(/visas/web-evidentiary-tool\)](#). Before you use this tool please read the [disclaimer \(/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500/disclaimer-for-document-checklist\)](#).

Enter your country of passport and education provider to get an accurate document checklist. Choose the option 'I have not decided on a provider yet' in the tool if you have not yet chosen a provider.

The tool will tell you what you will need to provide evidence of. If the tool says you need to provide evidence of a certain thing, select 'Show steps' to see what kind of evidence we might accept.

Re-check the document checklist based on the country of passport and education provider just before you submit your application to be sure you have the most current list. The Document Checklist Tool is updated twice a year on 31 March and 30 September.

Provide accurate information

Provide accurate information. See what happens if you can't [prove your identity or don't provide true information \(/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/providing-accurate-information\)](#).

Identity documents

We need proof of your identity. If you cannot prove your identity:

- we will refuse your visa application
- we might not grant you another visa for 10 years
- we might not grant any family members you listed on your application a visa for 10 years

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

Ask a question

Confirmation of enrolment, letters of support and acceptance forms

Attach the required documents according to your situation.

Applying outside Australia

Provide a Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) for all intended courses.

Applying inside Australia

Provide a CoE or letter of offer for all intended courses. You must provide the CoEs before the visa can be granted.

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade or Australian Department of Defence sponsored

Provide a letter of support

If your letter of support does not say it will meet the living costs and expenses of each secondary applicant, then evidence of sufficient funds is also required.

Secondary exchange student

Provide an Acceptance Advice of Secondary Exchange Student form

Postgraduate research student required to remain in Australia for marking of your thesis

Provide a letter from your education provider.

Evidence you have enough money for your stay

If the document checklist indicates you must provide evidence of your financial capacity, attach the evidence to your visa application. We might refuse your visa without asking you for more information if you don't.

If we don't ask you to provide evidence you have enough money for your stay when you apply, we might ask you to provide this evidence while we are processing your application.

The living costs we ask you to declare and provide with your visa application indicate the cost of living in Australia. Actual living costs vary throughout Australia. We recommend you research the area you intend to live including the cost of living in that area

There are options to prove you have enough money for your stay.

Enough money to cover costs and expenses

You can show proof you have enough money to cover the costs and expenses of your travel and your stay in Australia. You could give us evidence of:

- deposits of money from a financial institution
- government loans or loans from a financial institution
- scholarships or similar financial support

Annual income

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Alternatively, you can provide evidence your parents or your partner had a personal annual income of at least AUD62,222 in the 12 months immediately before you apply. If you bring family members, you must demonstrate your parents' or partner's income is at least AUD72,592.

If both your parents are working we can consider their combined income. Provide evidence of your parents' or partner's income in the form of official government documents such as tax assessments less than 12 months old. We won't accept bank statements or direct evidence from an employer.

Work out how much money you need

You must have enough money to pay for:

- your travel
- 12 months of your course fees (or pro rata fees, if your course is less than 12 months)
- 12 months of living costs for you and any family members who come with you to Australia (or pro rata fees, if you are staying less than 12 months)
- school fees for any school-age children who accompany you (or pro rata fees, if the child will be at school for less than 12 months)

Use the following information to work out how much money you need. To calculate pro rata costs, divide the annual cost by 365 and multiply the result by the number of days you intend to stay in Australia.

Living costs

12-month living costs are:

- for students or guardians - AUD21,041
- for partners coming with you - AUD7,362
- for a child coming with you - AUD3,152

Course fees

Use the first 12 months of your course fees. If your course is 12 months or less, use the total cost. Deduct any costs you have already paid – you must provide evidence you have paid them, such as a receipt or Confirmation of Enrolment.

If you are in Australia and your course has already started, calculate the course fee for 12 months starting on the date you lodge your application.

- Example 1: your course fee is AUD50,000 for 3 years. The fee for 12 months is the total course cost divided by the number of years you will be studying, so AUD50,000 divided by 3 years = AUD16,666, less any amount you have already paid if relevant.
- Example 2: your course fee is AUD15,000 for 10 months and you have already paid AUD5,000. Deduct the amount you have already paid from the total amount. AUD15,000 - AUD5,000 = AUD10,000.
- Example 3: your course fee is AUD20,000 for 18 months. The fee for 12 months is the total divided by the total number of months, then multiplied by 12. (AUD20,000/18) x 12 = AUD13,333. Deduct any costs you have already paid.

Schooling costs

If you are including any school-age children in your application, add schooling costs of at least AUD8,296 per year for each child. Costs vary between states, territories and schools in Australia –

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you are responsible for finding out how much the child's schooling will cost.

You don't have to provide evidence of schooling costs if you:

- are a PhD student and have enrolled your child in an Australian government school where the fees have been waived
- have received an Australian Commonwealth Government scholarship, including Foreign Affairs and Defence sponsored students, and have enrolled your child in an Australian government school where the fees have been waived

You must provide evidence the child is enrolled.

Travel costs

As a guide, when you calculate how much money you need, include:

- AUD2,500 for travel costs if you are applying from East or Southern Africa
- AUD3,000 for travel costs if you are applying from West Africa
- AUD2,000 for travel costs if you are applying from anywhere else outside Australia
- AUD1,000 for travel costs if you are applying in Australia. If you will be returning to Africa include AUD1,500

For combined applications

Include the costs and expenses of the primary applicant. For family members also applying for the visa, include:

- 12 months living costs (or pro rata)
- any school fees
- travel expenses

Other options

Secondary exchange students can prove they have enough money for their stay by providing a completed Acceptance Advice of Secondary Exchange Students (AASES) form.

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) students can prove they have enough money for their stay by providing a letter of support from DFAT. They must also provide proof of the financial capacity of any family members travelling with them.

Department of Defence students can prove they have enough money for their stay by providing a letter of support from the Department of Defence. They must also provide proof of the financial capacity of any family members travelling with them.

Family members who apply after we have granted you a visa (subsequent entrants)

Family members who apply to join you later must also show us they have enough money to cover:

- the costs and expenses of the student visa holder, including any remaining portion of the 12 months school fees minus any amount already paid
- 12 months living costs of all secondary applicants, including school fees
- travel costs for all secondary applicants

Evidence you have genuine access to the money

If we ask you to provide evidence of financial capacity you must also prove you have access to it.

[Ask a question](#)

If someone else is providing you funds, give us:

- evidence of your relationship with them
- their identity documents
- evidence of any financial support they have given you or another student visa holder in the past

If the financial support provided involves a business, show us proof the business is operating.

If you are providing evidence of deposits of money, explain their source.

Any education loan to cover your tuition or living costs should be paid out according to the agreement between you, the bank and the education provider. If you receive any payments before we make a decision on your application, give us evidence including the terms of the loan and the full amount you will be paid.

If you are relying on another kind of loan, provide:

- evidence of the security you used
- the terms of the loan
- evidence you can cover ongoing costs

The best evidence you can provide of genuine access to funds if you are relying on a loan is evidence of disbursement.

Let your provider know any conditions on your education loan. Some loans offer deferred repayment against your future earnings. These loans can be conditional on you studying only a specified course with a certain provider.

Evidence you are exempt from paying a visa application charge (VAC):

The following student visa applicants are not required to pay a visa application charge (VAC):

- Students awarded a scholarship funded by the Commonwealth Government of Australia
- Students and family members supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Student and family members supported by the Department of Defence
- Secondary exchange students
- Students affected by education provider default and lodge a new student visa application within 12 months of the provider default day
- Family members of students enrolled in a postgraduate research course
- Students who were unable to complete their course within their original student visa validity due to COVID-19 impacts. See [COVID-19 and the border – Student visa](https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/student-visa) (<https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/student-visa>).

If you are not sure, you should not claim exemption as we will not accept your application if you are not eligible and this may have consequences if you are in Australia, as an invalid application outcome could affect your visa status and you may not be eligible if your visa has already expired to apply for a further visa.

Note:

- You are not Commonwealth sponsored if you are sponsored by the government in your home

Ask a question

country or your government has provided you with a loan. Most Commonwealth sponsored students are enrolled in post graduate research courses.

- If your education provider is still operating but was unable to deliver the course you were enrolled in, then you are not affected by [education provider default](/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500/education-provider-default) (</visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500/education-provider-default>).

Overseas Student Health Cover

You **must** include proof of paid adequate health insurance for the proposed duration of your visa see [student visa grant periods](/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500/length-of-stay) (</visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500/length-of-stay>).

Health insurance must be Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) covering everyone included in your application.

If you don't provide your OSHC in your application form, we will refuse your visa application.

If you or your agent have organised OSHC, and included this information on your CoE, you will need to include the name of your health insurance provider, the dates your policy starts and finishes and the policy number in your application form.

If your education provider arranged your OSHC, you will need to include the name of your health insurance provider and the dates your policy starts and finishes in your application. You do not need to include the policy number in your application.

Make sure there is no gap in your coverage if you are studying with more than one education provider and both providers arrange OSHC for you. The second policy must begin as soon as the first expires.

Note: If you are from Norway, Sweden or Belgium, you might not have to obtain OSHC. See information on exceptions in the 'Have adequate health insurance' section on the [Eligibility](/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500#Eligibility) (</visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500#Eligibility>) page.

Genuine temporary entrant documents

Every Student visa applicant must provide evidence they are a genuine temporary entrant (GTE).

See how to provide evidence you are a [genuine temporary entrant](/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500/genuine-temporary-entrant) (</visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500/genuine-temporary-entrant>).

Student visa English language requirements

If you must provide evidence you meet the Student visa English language requirement, show us you achieved a certain score on an approved English language test. The English language test must have been taken in the 2 years before you apply for a student visa.

[Ask a question](#)

The table refers to the English language test providers and the minimum scores you must achieve to meet the Student visa English language requirement.

English language test providers	Minimum score	Minimum score and at least 10 weeks English Language Intensive Courses (ELICOS)	Minimum score and at least 20 weeks ELICOS
International English Language Testing System (https://www.ielts.org/)	5.5	5	4.5
TOEFL internet test (http://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/about)	46	35	32
Cambridge English: Advanced (Certificate in Advanced English) (http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams-and-tests/advanced/)	162	154	147
Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic) (https://pearsonpte.com/the-test)	42	36	30
Occupational English Test (https://www.occupationalenglishtest.org/)	B for each test component	N/A	N/A

Partner documents

Provide your partner's:

- identity documents
- character documents
- documents about other family members, if applicable

If you are married, provide your marriage certificate or other evidence that your marriage is valid in Australia.

If you are a de facto partner, provide proof of your de facto relationship.

This proof should show that:

- you have a mutual commitment with your partner to the exclusion of all others
- your relationship is genuine and continuing
- you either live together or don't live permanently apart
- you are not related by family

[Ask a question](#)

Additional proof of a de facto relationships

In addition to documents proving your relationship provide evidence that:

- you have been in your de facto relationship for at least 12 months before you applied for this visa, or
 - if applicable, provide evidence that your relationship is registered by a participating Australian state or territory
-

Dependants under 18

For every dependant child under the age of 18 years who is applying with you, provide:

- copies of birth certificates or the family book showing the names of both parents of all your dependent children
 - copies of the adoption paper, if applicable.
-

Parental responsibility documents

You must get consent for any applicant under 18 years of age to migrate 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 \(240KB PDF\) \(/form-listing/forms/1229.pdf\)](#)
- a statutory declaration giving their consent for the child to visit Australia on this visa

Alternatively, you can show us:

- an Australian court order that allows your child to migrate to Australia, or
- that the laws of your home country allow them to migrate

Include:

- an identity document that shows the signature and photo of the person who completed the form or declaration, such as a passport or driver's licence
 - adoption papers or other court documents if applicable
-

Ask a question

Evidence of school enrolment

You must give us evidence of education for any dependant child who has turned 5, but has not turned 18 years.

This can be a letter from the school (public or private) or from the State/Territory education department where you will be studying, and include enrolment details and fees paid.

Children 18 years and over

Only unmarried children under the age of 18 can be included as a dependant in your application.

If you have a child 18 or over, or a child who will turn 18 years before your student visa is granted they will need to apply for their own visa.

Tell us you are getting help

To nominate someone to:

- receive your correspondence, use [Form 956A Appointment or withdrawal of an authorised recipient \(301KB PDF\) \(/form-listing/forms/956a.pdf\)](#)
- provide immigration assistance, use [Form 956 Appointment of a registered migration agent, legal practitioner or exempt person \(225KB PDF\) \(/form-listing/forms/956.pdf\)](#).

Upload your written notification or your forms to [ImmiAccount \(/help-support/applying-online-or-on-paper/overview\)](#).

Prepare your documents

Translate

Have all non-English documents translated into English.

Translators in Australia must be accredited by the [National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters \(http://www.naati.com.au\)](#).

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

[Ask a question](#)

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 legible.

If a document is more than 1 page, save it all as 1 file.

Keep

Keep a copy of your completed application.

Step 3

Apply for the visa

You must apply for this visa online. You can be in or outside Australia when you apply.

If you are in Australia

You must hold an eligible substantive visa, or apply:

- within 28 days of holding a Student visa, a Special Purpose visa, or a dependent Diplomatic (temporary) visa or
- within 28 days of being notified by the Tribunal that your visa cancellation has been set aside.

You cannot apply for a student visa if you hold one of the following visas:

- Domestic Worker (Temporary) Diplomatic and Consular visa (subclass 426)
- Temporary Work (International Relations) visa (subclass 403) in the Domestic Worker (Diplomatic or consular) stream
- Diplomatic (Temporary) visa (subclass 995) – primary visa holder only. A family member of a Diplomatic (Temporary) visa (subclass 995) can apply for a Student visa in Australia
- Transit visa (subclass 771)
- Visitor visa (subclass 600) in the Sponsored Family stream or in the Approved Destination Status stream.

[Ask a question](#)

Do not provide false and misleading information

Provide accurate information. See what happens [if you can't prove your identity or don't provide true information \(/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/providing-accurate-information\)](#).

Apply online

1. [Create or log in to ImmiAccount \(https://online.immi.gov.au/lusc/login\)](https://online.immi.gov.au/lusc/login)
2. [Attach documents \(/help-support/applying-online-or-on-paper/online\)](#)
3. [Pay the visa application charge \(/help-support/applying-online-or-on-paper/online/how-to-pay\)](#)

Paying the application charge

When you submit your application you must:

- pay for you and your family members or your application will not be valid or
- provide proof of exemption as shown in 'Step by step', Gather your documents.

If your visa cancellation was set aside by the Tribunal you can't apply online. Instead submit a [ImmiAccount technical support form \(/help-support/departmental-forms/online-forms/immiaccount-technical-support-form\)](#).

Note: a valid application must be made within the eligibility timeframe as late applications will not be accepted.

See [how to resolve error messages when submitting online \(/help-support/applying-online-or-on-paper/online/technical-help\)](#).

Note:

1. We cannot grant a student visa to your child if they are 18 years or over at the time your visa is finished. Instead, they should apply for their own visa.
2. Where subsequent entrants are siblings (two or more children with no parent), they must each make a separate subsequent entrant student visa application and pay the base visa application charge to join their parent.

Step 4

After you apply

See what you can and must do after you apply.

[Ask a question](#)

Status updates

If it is within standard processing times do not call. We can't provide any further updates on the application's progress. You can see if we have asked for more information in your [ImmiAccount \(/help-support/applying-online-or-on-paper/online\)](#).

Biometrics

We might ask for [biometrics](#). Most applicants will be advised immediately after submitting an application if you need to provide biometrics. You will receive a letter and will also be able to see this request in your ImmiAccount. You will be given 14 days to provide biometrics so it is important to arrange an appointment quickly using the instructions in the request letter.

You must provide biometrics before travelling to Australia.

Health exams

If you did not have [health examinations \(/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/health\)](#) before you applied, check ImmiAccount to find out if you need them.

See the medical referral letter with your Health Assessment Portal (HAP) ID and further directions in ImmiAccount (<https://online.immi.gov.au/ola/app>).

Stay lawful in Australia

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

If you were in Australia when you applied for this visa, you were granted a Bridging visa A (BVA). If your current visa expires before we decide on your application, the BVA will start. You can stay in Australia on the BVA while we process your new visa application. You cannot travel on the BVA - there is no right of return on this visa; it cancels on departure.

Do not cancel your current visa. If you do, you will:

- be staying in Australia unlawfully
- not be eligible for a Bridging visa A

Learn more about [visa expiry \(/visas/visa-about-to-expire\)](#).

Travel after you apply

You do not have to tell us if you want to travel outside Australia while we process your application. This is because you can be outside Australia when we make a decision.

[Ask a question](#)

But if you leave Australia, make sure your visa allows you to return. If you have a Bridging visa A, it will cease if you leave Australia.

If you have a BVA and substantial reasons for travel, then a [Bridging visa B \(BVB\)](#) (*/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/bridging-visa-b-020*) enables return to Australia while your application is being processed.

To see if you can return on your current visa, check [VEVO](#) (*/visas/already-have-a-visa/check-visa-details-and-conditions*).

Learn about [visa expiry](#) (*/visas/visa-about-to-expire*).

Providing more information

If you did not attach all your documents when you applied, attach them as soon as you can in ImmiAccount. You can attach a maximum of 60 documents. We might also ask you to provide more information.

Add family members

Your eligible [family members](#) (*/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500#About*) can:

- accompany you to Australia if you have included them in your visa application
- join you in Australia, after you have been granted your visa, as a subsequent entrant. You must have declared these family members in your student visa application.

Declare all family members on your application, even if they do not plan to travel with you to Australia. If you do not do this, your family members will not be eligible for a student visa to join you in Australia.

If you did not declare a family member and they need to join you in Australia at a later date, you will need to apply for a new student visa including them and explain why they were not included on your application. An exception to this is if they became your family members after your student visa was granted and before a subsequent application is made.

Newborn children

Find out what to do [if your child is born after you apply](#) (*/change-in-situation/had-a-baby*).

Mistakes on your application

Let us know as soon as you can.

[Ask a question](#)

Complete [Form 1023 Notification of incorrect answers \(168KB PDF\)](/form-listing/forms/1023.pdf) (*/form-listing/forms/1023.pdf*)

Or

If you currently have a visa application in ImmiAccount that is not yet finalised, sign into ImmiAccount and select 'Update Details' from the Menu option.

Choose 'Notification of incorrect answers' from the list and provide the correct information.

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 \(301KB PDF\)](/form-listing/forms/956a.pdf) (*/form-listing/forms/956a.pdf*)
- provide immigration advice - complete [Form 956 Appointment of a registered migration agent, legal practitioner or exempt person \(225KB PDF\)](/form-listing/forms/956.pdf) (*/form-listing/forms/956.pdf*).

Upload your written notification or your forms to ImmiAccount (</help-support/applying-online-or-on-paper/overview>).

For more information see [Who can help you with your application](/help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/overview) (*/help-support/who-can-help-with-your-application/overview*).

Tell us if things change

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 how to tell us if [your situation changes](/change-in-situation) (*/change-in-situation*).

Education provider default

Education provider default occurs when a registered education provider in Australia:

- closes, or
- can't deliver your course because they have been sanctioned

If after lodging your student visa application your provider has defaulted, you will need to provide a new CoE for a new education provider.

See more about [education provider defaults](/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500/education-provider-default) (*/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500/education-provider-default*).

[Ask a question](#)

Step 5

Visa outcome

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

- your visa grant number
- the date your visa expires
- your visa conditions

Keep a copy of the decision with you when in Australia.

If we refuse your visa we will let you know in writing. We will tell you why we refused and whether you have a right to a review of the decision.

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

When you have this visa

- [Coming to Australia](#) (*#haveThisVisa-index-0*)
- [In Australia](#) (*#haveThisVisa-index-1*)
- [Leaving Australia](#) (*#haveThisVisa-index-2*)

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

Complete an Incoming Passenger Card

[Ask a question](#)

All people arriving Australia must complete the [Incoming Passenger Card \(https://www.abf.gov.au/entering-and-leaving-australia/crossing-the-border/at-the-border/incoming-passenger-card-\(ipc\)\)](https://www.abf.gov.au/entering-and-leaving-australia/crossing-the-border/at-the-border/incoming-passenger-card-(ipc)). You will get the 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 \(https://www.abf.gov.au/smartgates\)](https://www.abf.gov.au/smartgates).

In Australia

What you can do when you have this visa

- participate in an eligible course of study in Australia
- travel in and out of Australia
- as a temporary measure, you can work unlimited hours in any sector. See [Temporary changes to visa work conditions for Students and Working Holiday Makers \(https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/news-media/archive/article?itemId=813\)](https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/news-media/archive/article?itemId=813).

What you must do when you have this visa

You and your family members who apply with you must meet all visa conditions and obey Australian laws.

To see your specific conditions, work and study entitlements see your visa grant letter or [Visa Entitlement Verification Online \(VEVO\) \(/visas/already-have-a-visa/check-visa-details-and-conditions/overview\)](/visas/already-have-a-visa/check-visa-details-and-conditions/overview)

How long you can stay

This is a temporary visa. You can stay in Australia until the date we have told you. The [student visa grant period \(/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500/length-of-stay\)](/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500/length-of-stay) will depend on the type of course and its length.

To see when you must leave, use [VEVO \(/visas/already-have-a-visa/check-visa-details-and-conditions/overview\)](/visas/already-have-a-visa/check-visa-details-and-conditions/overview).

Staying longer

You cannot stay in Australia longer by extending this visa. To continue studying in Australia, you must apply for a new Student visa.

If you want to stay longer without studying, you must apply for a new visa.

See your options [\(/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-finder\)](/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-finder).

Visa expiry before graduation

If your student visa will expire before your graduation, you might be able to apply for another visa that meets your circumstances such as a visitor visa. You will need a letter from your education provider which states the date of your graduation.

Travelling on your visa

You can travel outside Australia and return as many times as you want while the visa is valid.

Time spent outside Australia does not extend the visa.

[Ask a question](#)

See your conditions in [VEVO \(/visas/already-have-a-visa/check-visa-details-and-conditions/overview\)](#).

Proving you have a visa

To prove you have a visa and show your conditions to someone, use [VEVO \(/visas/already-have-a-visa/check-visa-details-and-conditions/overview\)](#).

Working on this visa

There are currently no restrictions on work for international students. This means that international students can work before their course commences and work more than 40 hours a fortnight in any sector of the economy. This is a temporary measure and will be reviewed by the Government in April 2022.

To see the visa conditions that affect **your** work situation, see [VEVO \(/visas/already-have-a-visa/check-visa-details-and-conditions/overview\)](#).

Bringing a family member

You can include a family member in your application or they can apply to join you later as a subsequent applicant in [ImmiAccount \(/help-support/applying-online-or-on-paper/online\)](#) provided:

- you declared existing family members at the time you lodged your application, or
- they became your family member after you were granted the visa.

Existing family members must have been declared at the time of you lodged your application

If a person became your family member after you lodged your application and before you were granted the visa, you must have informed us in writing before your visa was granted.

For student visas, your family member is:

- your partner, or
- your or your partner's dependent child who is unmarried and has not turned 18 years of age.

We cannot grant a student visa to your child if they have turned 18 years at the time your visa is finalised. Instead they need to apply for their own visa.

Where subsequent entrants are siblings (two or more children with no parent), they must make separate student visa applications and each pay the base application charge to join their parent.

Family members who apply for the visa must meet our requirements for [health \(/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/health\)](#) and [character \(/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/character\)](#) and be a [genuine temporary entrant \(/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500/genuine-temporary-entrant\)](#).

If you are bringing school aged children, check the annual school costs you will need to pay for them to go to either public or private schools in Australia.

Newborn child

Find out what to do [if you have a child \(/change-in-situation/had-a-baby\)](#).

Tell us if things change

Things you need to let us know about include:

[Ask a question](#)

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

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

Your study situation has changed

Find out what to do if there is a [change in your study situation \(/change-in-situation/study-situation\)](#). This includes:

- you are thinking about changing courses
- completing your course early
- circumstances where you can defer your course

Flexible arrangements regarding start dates due to COVID-19

The Department understands that some students may not be able to start their course of study on time due to COVID-19 restrictions. Make sure your education provider knows that you cannot start your studies due to COVID-19 restrictions. There are options that can ensure you are not in breach of your visa conditions. Your education provider can tell you what options are available to you for your situation.

If you hold a Student visa, contact your education provider if you cannot travel due to COVID-19 restrictions. Make sure that you are enrolled in an approved course of study at all times.

Be aware that we may cancel your visa if you:

- fail to start studies on time, or
- do not hold a current or active Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE).

Your education provider will be able to help you so this does not happen.

If you are outside Australia and have not held an active or current CoE, check your visa status on [\(VEVO \(https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/already-have-a-visa/check-visa-details-and-conditions/check-conditions-online\)\)](#). Do this before making any travel plans to ensure your visa status has not changed.

Please see [Change in your study situation \(/change-in-situation/study-situation\)](#).

Education provider default

Education provider default occurs when a registered education provider in Australia:

- closes, or
- can't deliver your course because they have been sanctioned

If after lodging your student visa application your provider has defaulted, you will need to provide a new CoE for a new education provider.

See more about [education provider default \(/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500/education-provider-default\)](#).

Leaving Australia

Before you leave

[Ask a question](#)

Check your travel documents

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

Ensure your visa is still valid if you intend to return to Australia

Check your conditions and the expiry of your current visa in VEVO.

See what you can and must do [if your visa has expired or is about to expire \(/visas/visa-about-to-expire\)](#).

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](http://www.abf.gov.au/smartgates). (<http://www.abf.gov.au/smartgates>)

Get your superannuation if you intend not to return to Australia

You are likely to have some money in a superannuation fund if you worked in Australia and you are:

- 18 years old or older
- paid AUD450 or more before tax in a month

See how to [access your super \(/entering-and-leaving-australia/leaving-australia\)](#).

To prove you have been to Australia

[Request your international movement records \(https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/entering-and-leaving-australia/request-movement-records\)](https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/entering-and-leaving-australia/request-movement-records) to get proof of your travel in and out of Australia.

Last updated:
4 February 2022

[Ask a question](#)