

Australia operates an Overseas Student Program (OSP) that allows people who are not Australian citizens or permanent residents to study in Australia.

Any person who is not an Australian resident may apply to study in Australia under the OSP, however a student visa must be obtained before commencing a course of study in Australia.

A student visa can only be granted if you wish to undertake a fulltime registered course or part of a registered course offered by an Australian education provider which is registered with the Australian Government to offer these courses.

Details can be obtained from the Department of Education, Science and Training.

There are also other options available to overseas students, such as English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) and non-award courses.

The following is a summary of the various Visa subclasses

<b>Student visa subclass</b>	<b>Courses/qualifications</b>
<b>Subclass 570</b> Independent ELICOS	English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) undertaken as a stand-alone course, not leading to an Australian award
<b>Subclass 571</b> Schools	Primary school Secondary school including junior and senior secondary Approved secondary exchange programs
<b>Subclass 572</b> Vocational Education and Training (VET)	Certificate I, II, III, and IV Diploma, Advanced diploma <i>Former RATE system qualifications: Certificate, Advanced certificate and Associate diploma</i>
<b>Subclass 573</b> Higher Education	Bachelor degree Associate degree Graduate certificate Graduate diploma
<b>Subclass 574</b> Masters and Doctorate	Master degree including master coursework and master research Doctoral degree
<b>Subclass 575</b> Non-award Foundation Studies/Other	Enabling course: non-award foundation studies Other full-time courses or components of courses not leading to an Australian award
<b>Subclass 576</b> AusAID and Defence	Full-time courses of all types undertaken by AusAID or Defence students sponsored by the Australian Government

On 1 July 2001, an assessment level system was introduced to determine eligibility for a student

visa, by establishing the threshold requirements that an applicant must meet in order to be granted a student visa.

The assessment levels are prescribed according to the passport held and the education sector of study. For more information, see [Overseas Student Program Assessment Levels tables](#).

The country/sector assessment levels assigned have been based upon objective criteria and objective data regarding the compliance of students from different countries and in different education sectors.

Assessment level 1 represents the lowest assessment level and assessment level 5 the highest. The higher the assessment level, the greater the minimum evidentiary standards a student visa applicant has to satisfy in respect of criteria relating to financial capacity, English proficiency and other relevant matters.

Assessment level 2, 3, 4 and 5 applicants must make their initial student visa application while they are outside of Australia.

The Department of Immigration emphasises that the student should be certain that he or she will have enough money to set up house in Australia as well as to pay for air fares (including the return trip), course tuition fees, overseas student health cover (OSHC) and all general expenses during the stay in Australia.

The assessment factors will review the student's financial resources in this regard.

There are strict conditions attaching to the visa when issued, the most common being that:

- The student must satisfy attendance and/or course requirements and maintain a valid enrolment for the chosen course of study - set out in new visa condition 8202 .
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- The student and members of the family unit must not work unless granted permission after the course of study has commenced.
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- The student must remain with the education provider with whom the student enrolled for the first 12 months of the course (or for the duration of the course if the course lasts for less than 12 months) - save for in exceptional circumstances.
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- The student's residential address (and any changes) must be notified to the educational provider within 7 days of arrival in Australia.
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It should be noted that breaching any student visa condition might result in the visa being cancelled and it is vital that the above conditions be kept in mind at all times to avoid possible cancellation.

Please contact us on our secure enquiry form [HERE](#) for more advice.

***PERMANENT RESIDENCY***

There are 3 categories of skilled visa which allow tertiary qualified overseas students in Australia to remain permanently.

Applications must be made while the former student is still in Australia, and within 6 months of completion of a diploma, degree, or trade certificate for award by an Australian educational institution .

This is after a qualifying period of full time study in the English language medium at that institution in Australia.

> An **Independent Overseas Student visa (subclass 880)** is available to students who have a successful skills assessment for a skilled occupation assigned at least 60 points on the Skilled Occupations List, or 50 points if they are a successful PhD student.

> An **Australian-sponsored Overseas Student visa (subclass 881)** is available to students who must have a satisfactory skills assessment for a nominated skilled occupation assigned at least 50 points on the Skilled Occupations List.

> A **Designated Area-sponsored Overseas Student (subclass 882)** visa is also available to students who must have a satisfactory skills assessment for any nominated skilled occupation that carries 40 points or more.

A new **Temporary Graduate - Skilled visa (subclass 497)** is available to allow student visa holders to remain in Australia for up to 6 months while their application for a permanent Skilled Overseas Student visa is being processed.

The requirements for these visas may change at any time and further information may be obtained by contacting us [HERE](#) on our secure enquiry form.