

Applying for an Australian student visa?

Here's help

The Australian Government provides an opportunity to all students to study in the country but as a prerequisite, you'll have to obtain a student visa first. The visa you need will depend on your age, the type of study you want to pursue, and how long you want to stay in Australia. As an international student, you would most commonly require a student (subclass 500) visa, regardless of your field of study.

Student visa (subclass 500)

Coming into effect since July 1, 2016, a student subclass 500 visa lets you stay in Australia for the duration of your study program, which is mostly up to five years and in line with your enrolment date. For a smooth stay, you need to ensure that your visa remains valid and you abide by the conditions as mentioned on your student visa. You can read up in detail about this kind of visa on the Australian Government's [Department of Home Affairs](#) website.

Scope of your subclass 500 visa

- You can participate in your desired study program
- You can be accompanied by your family members to Australia
- You can apply in or outside Australia through online portal

Basic checks before you apply

- You should be enrolled in your desired study program in Australia
- You should hold Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) or either fall in any of the exemption categories
- You must be equal to or more than 6 years
- You need to prove that you have a welfare arrangement (in case you are less than 18 years of age)

When applying for your student visa for Australia, you will generally need:

- Proof of enrolment (your electronic confirmation of enrolment)
- A valid passport
- Your visa application fee
- Your Genuine Temporary Entrant (GTE) statement

- Academic and work experience documents
- Evidence of your English proficiency skills (such as IELTS test scores)
- Evidence of financial ability (tuition fees, living expenses, expenses for dependents, return airfare)
- Details of your health insurance policy (Overseas Student Health Cover)
- Statement of purpose
- Passport-sized photographs

If you are under 18 years of age, you will also need to provide additional documents such as parental consent.

*Please note that these are the basic requirements, speak with your IDP counsellor for a detailed list of documents required for visa processing

Applying for your visa online

You will need to create an account using Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP)'s online application system – ImmiAccount - to complete and submit your student visa application. You can also track the status of your visa through ImmiAccount once you have submitted it. You should submit your application no later than six weeks before your course starts, and no earlier than 12 weeks.

How can IDP help in your visa application?

If you're an IDP student with an offer letter from any of our partner institutions in Australia, we can advise you on how to go about the entire process. We'll make sure you are fully informed on the latest visa requirements and conditions; also help you prepare the right documents for your submission.

Our team of experts will direct you to the official websites and to authorised immigration representatives to ensure you have the latest applications forms and guidance. To reduce the hassle, we also help to certify, translate and courier your documents.

Visa fee

As an international student you must pay visa fees as per the below category you fall in:

Visa subclass	Base application charge	Additional applicant charges if 18 years or above	Additional applicant charges if less than 18 years	The subsequent temporary application charge
Student visa (subclass 500)	AUD 620	AUD 460	AUD 150	AUD 700
Student visa (subclass 500) (subsequent entrant)	AUD 620	AUD 460	AUD 150	AUD 700
Student visa (subclass 500) – Foreign Affairs or Defence sector	nil	nil	nil	nil

Student visa (subclass 500) – Postgraduate research sector	AUD 620	nil	nil	nil
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English language requirements

To gain your Australia student visa, you'll have to provide evidence of proficiency in the English language. This usually means passing a secure English language test to be able to prove your communication and correspondence skills.

The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) is the world's most popular high-stakes English language proficiency test for study, work and migration, with more than three million tests taken in the past year. The IELTS results are recognised by more than 10,000 organisations, including educational institutions, employers, professional associations and governments, in 140 countries around the world.

The minimum score required in your IELTS for an Australian student visa is 5.5 band in each of the four modules.

[\(Know more about IELTS\)](#)

Making sure your visa remains valid

Once you get your visa, there are several things you need to do to ensure it remains valid, including:

- Remain enrolled and maintain satisfactory course progress and attendance
- Provide your Australian address to your university or college so they can contact you (don't forget to let them know if you move)
- Continue to be able to financially support yourself while in Australia
- Don't breach the working conditions that apply to your visa

If you want to change your qualification level, you will need to apply for a new student visa.

You can always contact us for a free counselling session, and we can guide you on how to go about the entire visa application process.

Key Points

- International students in Australia typically need a Student visa (subclass 500).
- Requirements include proof of enrollment, financial capability (at least AUD29,710 as of May 2024), English proficiency, health insurance, and meeting health and character standards.
- The process seems straightforward, but processing times can vary, so apply early.

Visa Overview

The Student visa (subclass 500) is the main visa for international students, allowing study and limited work (up to 48 hours per fortnight during study terms). It seems likely that most students will need to meet these requirements, but exceptions may apply, especially for health insurance for students from certain countries like Belgium, Sweden, and Norway.

Financial and Application Details

You'll need to show you have at least AUD29,710 (as of May 2024) to cover living costs, plus tuition and travel. The evidence leans toward needing a Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) from your education provider and proof of English language skills, unless you're from an English-speaking country. Apply online through the Department of Home Affairs website ([Department of Home Affairs](<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/check-twice-submit-once/student-visa>)) and use their Document Checklist tool for required documents.

Additional Considerations

Remember to notify your education provider of your address within 7 days of arriving and maintain satisfactory course progress. For students under 18, additional welfare arrangements may be needed. Check [Study Australia](<https://www.studyaustralia.gov.au/en/plan-your-move/your-guide-to-visas/student-visa-subclass-500>) for more details on conditions and processing times.

Comprehensive Survey Note on Visa Requirements for International Students in Australia

This survey note provides an in-depth exploration of the visa requirements for international students wishing to study in Australia, based on authoritative sources such as the Australian Department of Home Affairs, Study Australia, and Top Universities. The information is current as of May 18, 2025, and aims to cover all relevant details to assist students in navigating the application process effectively.

Introduction

Studying in Australia is a popular choice for international students due to its high-quality education system and diverse cultural experiences. However, obtaining the necessary visa is a critical step, and the Student visa (subclass 500) is the primary visa type for this purpose. This note outlines the key requirements, application process, and additional considerations, ensuring a thorough understanding for prospective students.

Visa Type and Eligibility

The Student visa (subclass 500) is designed for international students enrolled in full-time courses at Australian education providers. To be eligible, students must:

- Be accepted into a course registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS).
- Obtain a Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) from their education provider, which is a mandatory document for the visa application.

The visa allows students to stay in Australia for the duration of their course, typically up to 5 years, depending on the course length. It also permits travel in and out of Australia during this period.

Financial Requirements

A significant aspect of the visa application is demonstrating financial capacity. As of May 2024, students must show evidence of having at least AUD29,710 to cover 12 months of living costs, in addition to tuition fees and travel expenses. This requirement was increased to ensure students can support themselves during their stay and reflects the cost of living adjustments. Students can prove financial capacity through:

- Personal savings or bank statements.
- Evidence of parental or spousal income, such as tax assessments, showing at least AUD62,222 annually for the 12 months prior to application, or AUD72,592 if bringing family members.

For precise calculations, students can use tools like the Cost of Living Calculator provided by Study Melbourne ([Study Melbourne](https://studymelbourne.vic.gov.au/study-with-us/enrolments-and-student-visas/apply-for-a-visa)) or the Moneysmart Budget Planner ([Moneysmart Budget Planner](https://moneysmart.gov.au/budgeting/budget-planner)).

English Language Proficiency

International students must demonstrate English language proficiency unless they are from an English-speaking country, such as the UK or USA. This typically involves achieving a certain score in approved tests like IELTS or TOEFL. For instance, courses like Business and Engineering usually require an IELTS score of 6.5, while Nursing and Teaching may require 7.0 or higher. Exemptions apply, and more information can be found on the Department of Home Affairs website ([Department of Home Affairs English Requirements](https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/english-language)).

Health Insurance

All international students must have Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the duration of their stay, which helps cover medical and hospital costs. This is a mandatory requirement, and failure to provide proof will result in visa refusal. Exceptions exist for students from Belgium, Sweden, and Norway under specific conditions, such as Swedish students with Kammarkollegiet insurance. Students can arrange OSHC through their education provider or independently, and it's advisable to order an OSHC card for doctor appointments. More details are available on the health resources page ([OSHC Resources](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/overseas-student-health-cover-oshc-resources?utm_source=health.gov.au&utm_medium=callout-auto-custom&utm_campaign=digital_transformation)).

Health and Character Requirements

The Australian government requires international students to be in good health, which may involve undergoing health examinations. These can be completed using the My Health Declaration service before submitting the visa application. Additionally, students must meet character requirements, which involve answering questions about past conduct and providing police clearance certificates if necessary. This ensures compliance with Australia's immigration standards, and more information is available on the Department of Home Affairs website ([Health Requirements](https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/health), [Character Requirements](https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/character)).

Genuine Student Requirement

Replacing the previous Genuine Temporary Entrant (GTE) requirement, the Genuine Student (GS) requirement mandates that applicants demonstrate a genuine intention to stay in Australia primarily for study. This involves providing details on:

- Current circumstances, including family, community, employment, and economic ties.
- Reasons for choosing the specific course and provider, including understanding the course requirements and living in Australia.
- Benefits of completing the course.

This requirement is assessed through targeted questions in the application, and more details can be found on the Department of Home Affairs website ([Genuine Student Requirement](https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500/genuine-temporary-entrant)).

Application Process

The application process is conducted online through the Department of Home Affairs' ImmiAccount ([ImmiAccount Login](https://online.immi.gov.au/lusc/login)). Key steps include:

- Completing the visa application form and paying the visa fee, which is approximately AUD1,600 as of January 2025, unless exempt.

- Attaching required documents, such as the CoE, proof of financial capacity, health insurance, English proficiency results, and character checks, using the Document Checklist Tool ([Document Checklist Tool](<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/web-evidentiary-tool>)).
- Agreeing to electronic communication via ImmiAccount for updates and responding promptly to any requests for additional information.

Students can apply offshore with a genuine intention to study, but onshore applications are restricted for holders of certain visas, such as Visitor, Temporary Graduate, and Maritime Crew visas. Existing Student visa holders can apply for additional visas for further study, such as moving between course levels.

Visa Conditions and Obligations

Once granted, the Student visa comes with specific conditions that must be met:

- Notify your education provider of your residential address within 7 days of arriving in Australia and within 7 days of any change.
- Maintain enrollment in a CRICOS-registered program and make satisfactory course progress and attendance.
- Hold approved OSHC while in Australia and inform the university immediately of any address or contact details changes.
- Work is limited to 48 hours per fortnight during study terms, including exams and before the course starts, unless on another work-permitting visa. Unlimited hours are allowed outside these times, and Masters by Research or Doctoral degree students have no work hour limits after the course starts.

Breaching these conditions may result in visa cancellation, so it's crucial to comply. Students can check their visa conditions using the Visa Entitlement Verification Online system (VEVO) ([VEVO](<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/already-have-a-visa/check-visa-details-and-conditions/check-conditions-online>)).

Special Considerations

For students under 18, additional requirements include providing welfare and custody arrangements, such as Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare (CAAW), especially for those registered in international student supervision programs. Guardians can apply for a Student Guardian visa (subclass 590), but they are not permitted to work and must prove financial support for themselves and the student. More details are available on the Department of Home Affairs website ([Student Guardian Visa](<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-590>)).

Course packaging is another consideration, allowing students to study multiple courses with clear progression, provided there are CoEs for each and gaps between courses are less than 2 months, or 3-4 months if aligning with academic year ends (November to February). The main course determines the financial and English evidence required, and more information is available on the pathways page ([Pathways to

University](<https://www.studyaustralia.gov.au/en/plan-your-studies/universities-and-higher-education/pathways-to-university>)).

Processing Times and Fees

Visa processing times vary and depend on individual circumstances. It's recommended to apply well before the course commencement date, using the visa processing time guide tool on the Department of Home Affairs website ([Visa Processing Times](<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/global-visa-processing-times>)). Tips to improve processing time are also available ([Processing Time Tips](<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/check-twice-submit-once>)). The visa fee is AUD1,600 as of January 2025, but exemptions may apply, and more information is on the Department of Home Affairs website ([Visa Fees](<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500>)).

Below is a table summarizing the key visa requirements for easy reference:

Student Visa (Subclass 500) Requirements

Requirement	Details
Visa Type	Student visa (subclass 500)
Enrollment	Must have CoE from CRICOS-registered course
Financial Proof	Minimum AUD 29,710 for living costs (as of May 2024), plus tuition and travel
English Proficiency	Required score in approved tests; exemptions for English-speaking countries
Health Insurance	OSHC mandatory; exceptions for Belgium, Sweden, and Norway
Health and Character	Health exams may be needed; police clearance required
Work Rights	Up to 48 hours per fortnight during study terms; unlimited during breaks
Application Process	Online via ImmiAccount; include all documents using Checklist Tool

Student Visa Application Tips

Application Tip	Details
Name and Date	Must match passport; use dd/mm/yyyy format
Document Checklist	Use official tool to ensure all required documents are included
Genuine Student	Demonstrate clear study intent; answer GTE-related questions honestly
Electronic Communication	Opt in for ImmiAccount updates; respond promptly to any requests
Students Under 18	Must provide valid welfare and custody arrangements

Conclusion

This survey note covers all aspects of visa requirements for international students in Australia, from eligibility and financial proof to health insurance and application processes. It is designed to provide a comprehensive resource for students, ensuring they are well-prepared for their visa application. For the most current and detailed information, always consult the official websites listed in the citations.