



THIS INFORMATION FORM is about applying for a visa to visit Australia for short periods for the purposes of:

- tourism (sightseeing);
- seeing relatives or friends; or
- short term study.

What visa do I apply for?

There are 2 appropriate visa subclasses for people visiting for these purposes:

(A) Tourist visa, class TR, subclass 676

You can apply for this visa if you are in Australia or outside Australia.

More detailed information about this is available from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (the department) website www.immi.gov.au/visitors/tourist/676/

Visa validity

This visa generally allows stays of 3 or 6 months in Australia, although a stay of up to 12 months can be granted. A stay beyond 12 months is **ONLY** granted where 'exceptional' circumstances exist.

It may be granted for a single entry or multiple entries within a specified period. Generally, this visa allows people to enter Australia within 12 months from the date of grant.

Under the Australia's migration regulations, decision-makers may, however, grant a Tourist visa permitting the visa holder to travel to and to remain in Australia for a specified period that they see as appropriate. In some circumstances, the stay period granted may be less than the stay period requested by the applicant.

Ways to apply:

There are 3 ways to apply for a Tourist visa:

- electronically over the internet;
- on a paper application form; or
- via a Service Delivery Partner (SDP). SDPs provide visa application services on behalf of the department in some countries. For more detailed information, and to check if an SDP is available in your country, see *Contact Us* on the department's website www.immi.gov.au/contacts/overseas/

To apply for a Tourist visa from outside Australia:

- Applications for a Tourist visa may be made via the internet using registered travel agents, airline services, using a SDP or by applicants applying directly on the internet. To apply through the internet, you must hold an eligible passport. A list of eligible countries for this service is available from the department's website www.immi.gov.au/e_visa/
- Alternatively, applications for a Tourist visa may also be made on a paper application form at an Australian Embassy, High Commission or Consulate.

To apply for a Tourist visa in Australia:

- An application for a total stay of up to 6 months from the date the applicant last entered Australia on an Electronic Travel Authority (Visitor) (subclass 976) or a Tourist visa (subclass 676) can be made over the internet. Further information is available on the department's website www.immi.gov.au/e_visa/
- Alternatively, applications for a Tourist visa may also be made on a paper application form at an office of the department. To apply you are required to complete form 601 *Application for further stay as a visitor* and either mail it with your passport to an office of the department or present the form with your passport to a counter officer of the department. Forms are available upon request from any office of the department. For more details on visa lodgement options check the department's website www.immi.gov.au/e_visa/

Studying

You can study for up to 3 months on this visa. If you want to study longer than 3 months you should consider applying for a Student visa. If you are a Student visa holder, you can not extend your stay in Australia on a Tourist visa, for the purposes of commencing a CRICOS registered course or continuing or completing a CRICOS registered course in which you are enrolled.

(B) Sponsored Family Visitor visa, class UL, subclass 679

You can apply for this visa only:

- if you are outside Australia; and
- if an Australian citizen or permanent resident is going to sponsor you.

More detailed information about this is available from the department's website www.immi.gov.au/visitors/visiting-family/679/

Visa validity

This visa generally allows for a stay of 3 months or less but in certain circumstances a period of up to 12 months may be granted. This visa allows for only **one single entry**.

Ways to apply

You are required to complete form 48S *Application to visit Australia as a sponsored family visitor* and your sponsor is required to complete form 1149 *Application for sponsorship for sponsored family visitors*. Both application forms should be lodged together at an office of the department in Australia.

If you are applying for this visa, do not send your original passport to Australia. You should provide a certified copy of your passport to your sponsor.

Studying

You can study for up to 3 months on this visa. If you want to study longer than 3 months you should consider applying for a Student visa.

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Do I need a sponsor?

You only need a formal sponsor if you are applying for a Sponsored Family Visitor visa. For other visitor classes, you may be asked to provide evidence of support from relatives or friends.

Sponsored Family Visitor visa sponsors may be requested to arrange for the lodgement of a security bond. The amount of the security bond is determined on a case by case basis by the delegated officer and is generally between AUD5,000 and AUD15,000 per person. It should be noted, however, under the *Migration Act 1958* the decision to request a security bond is at the discretion of the delegated officer. Therefore, depending on the circumstances of the individual case, the delegated officer may ask for a security bond of any amount that they see as appropriate.

Special conditions and requirements apply, and penalties will be imposed on the sponsor if any visa conditions are breached.

What else do I need to know?

- Each person with their own passport must complete a visa application. Children travelling on a parent's passport do not need to complete a separate application form.
- You may arrange for another person to help you complete the application form, but you must sign it. If you have been assisted in completing the application form, you should only sign the declaration(s) if the information is true and correct. The application form must be signed by the applicant. If unable to sign, a parent or guardian may sign on behalf of the applicant. If a travel agent lodges your visa application on your behalf, you must still sign the application form.
- You will need to provide your passport to have a visa label affixed, where required. If you apply electronically for a Tourist visa, a visa label will not be required in your passport.
- If you need your passport while your visa application is being processed, please provide a high quality copy of the bio-data pages of your passport.
- You should provide with your application a valid passport or copy of bio-data pages, a passport-type photograph of each person as outlined in the application form.
- It is strongly recommended that you hold a passport valid for at least 6 months. A visa can usually only be granted to a client with a valid passport.
- **You must be of good character.**
- **You must be of good health.** You may be required to undergo a health examination. Applicants should refer to form 1163i *Health requirement for temporary entry to Australia*.

Do I need health insurance?

It is recommended that you take out health insurance for you and your family for the period of your stay in Australia. You will not be covered by Australia's National health scheme, unless you are covered by a reciprocal health care agreement.

If you are 70 years of age or over

In order to satisfy the financial requirements for these visas, you will be asked to provide evidence with your application that you have health insurance to cover your stay in Australia. More information about Australian private health insurance is available from the department's website www.immi.gov.au/visitors/

Vaccinations

If it is your intention to enrol your child in an Australian school or childcare centre (creche or preschool) during your visit to Australia, you are strongly encouraged to carry certification of your child's vaccination status. Vaccination is recommended against polio, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), Haemophilus influenzae hypo B (Hib), and Hepatitis B. Certification may be sought at time of enrolment.

Note: Vaccination against rubella is also recommended for women of child bearing age.

Can I extend my stay in Australia?

If you intend to extend your stay as a visitor and you do not have a no further stay condition on your current visa, you should lodge a Tourist visa (subclass 676) application at least 2 weeks before your current visa expires.

To be granted a further visa as a visitor, you must have:

- complied with the conditions of the visa that you currently hold;
- exceptional circumstances if you have already spent more than 12 months in Australia on Working Holiday visa or visitor visas since last entering Australia.

Certain conditions if attached to your current visa will prevent you from applying for a Tourist visa in Australia. You will have been advised of these conditions at the time your visa was granted.

What conditions apply?

Most visas are subject to conditions. If you breach these conditions, your visa may be cancelled and you will be required to leave Australia. The following conditions might be on your visa:

8101 – You must not work in Australia.

8201 – While in Australia you must not engage, for more than 3 months, in any studies or training.

8205 – If you intend to study for longer than 4 weeks, you may be required to pass a chest x-ray examination before you are able to commence study.

8503 – No further stay¹.

8531 – You must not remain in Australia after the end of the period of stay permitted by your initial Sponsored Family Visitor visa.

Residential address

You must provide the address of where you intend to live while your application is being dealt with. Failure to give a residential address in your application will result in your application being invalid. A post office box address will not be accepted as your residential address.

Visa Application Charge

A fee may be payable by each passport holder. If a payment is required, the payment is generally non-refundable and it does not guarantee that your application will be approved. To check the Visa Application Charge (VAC), see form 990i *Charges* available from the Forms section of the department's website www.immi.gov.au/allforms/990i.htm or check with the nearest office of the department.

¹ Except in extremely limited circumstances which are outside your control, or to engage Australia's protection obligation under the 1951 UN convention relating to the status of refugees.

Method of payment

In Australia

To make a payment, please pay by credit card, debit card, bank cheque or money order made payable to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship. Debit card and credit card are the preferred methods of payment.

Outside Australia

Before making a payment outside Australia, please check with the Australian Government office where you intend to lodge your application as to what methods of payment and currencies they can accept and to whom the payment should be made payable.

Business (Short Stay) visitors

If you are coming to Australia for short-term business purposes (including attending conferences, meetings, business negotiations, exploratory visits or building inspections), you should consider applying for:

- **459 Sponsored Business Visitor (Short Stay)** – You can apply for this visa if you have an approved sponsor. This visa is for a stay of **3 months or less**, and may allow a single entry or multiple entries within a specified period.

For more information check the department's website www.immi.gov.au/skilled/

- **456 Business (Short Stay)** – This visa is for a stay of **3 months or less**, and may allow a single entry or multiple entries within a specified period.

For more information check the department's website www.immi.gov.au/skilled/

Home page **www.immi.gov.au**

General enquiry line Telephone **131 881** during business hours in Australia to speak to an operator (recorded information available outside these hours). If you are outside Australia, please contact your nearest Australian mission.