



Visa options for Conferences, Seminars, Trade Fairs or Expos

Overview

There are many visa options available for visiting Australia. This fact sheet is a general guide to the most common visa options for those travelling to Australia to participate in a conference, trade fair, seminar, or expo.

All visitors to Australia must have a valid visa to travel to and enter Australia. New Zealand and Norfolk Island passport holders do not usually need to lodge a visa application prior to their departure unless they have health and/or character concerns.

The information contained in this fact sheet is current as at 22 June 2016. Australian law may change after this time resulting in a change in visa options. Please check the Department of Immigration and Border Protection's website for further information: www.border.gov.au/

Visa Options

Visitor visas (subclasses 601, 651 and 600)

If you are planning to visit Australia to participate in a business event such as a conference, seminar, trade fair or expo and you are not being paid by an organiser for your participation in the event, you may be eligible for one of the following Visitor visas:

- Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) (subclass 601)
- eVisitor (subclass 651)
- Visitor visa (subclass 600) in the Business Visitor stream.

You must not be intending to:

- work for or provide services to a business or organisation in Australia or
- sell goods or services to the Australian public.

While you must not be paid by an organiser for your participation in the event, you may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses such as accommodation and meals.

A Visitor visa may also be appropriate if you are undertaking a genuine unpaid volunteer role, but only if an Australian resident would not otherwise be paid to do that type of work.

For further information about the specific requirements of Visitor visas (subclasses 600, 601, or 651), please refer to the Department's website: www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa/App/Visitor.

Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity) visa (subclass 400)

As an 'Invited Participant'

If you are not eligible for a Visitor visa (refer to the above information) and you have been invited to participate in a business event by an organisation lawfully operating in Australia, you may be eligible for the Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity) visa (subclass 400).

As an invited participant, you must not receive salary, wages or other remuneration to participate in the event, other than reimbursement for reasonable expenses (such as accommodation and travel), appearance fees or prize money, or payments made by an overseas employer.

As a 'Highly Specialised Worker'

If you intend to work at the event, you may be eligible for the Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity) visa (subclass 400) as a 'Highly Specialised Worker'. This visa allows for persons seeking short-term entry to Australia to undertake highly specialised work. This may include, for example, installers of exhibits, constructors of stands, supervisors, or exhibitors engaged in retail activities.

As a speaker at the event?

If you are a guest speaker at the event and are not being paid to participate, you may be eligible for a Visitor visa (refer to the above information).

If you are being paid to speak and participate in the event, a Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity) visa (subclass 400) may be appropriate. For further information about the specific requirements of the Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity) visa (subclass 400), please refer to the Department's website: www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/400-

If you intend to deliver your presentation as a performance, or are otherwise intending to perform at the event, please refer to the information below regarding the Temporary Work (Entertainment) visa (subclass 420).

Temporary Work (Entertainment) visa (subclass 420)

Are you performing or entertaining?

If you intend to perform or entertain at a business event, the Temporary Work (Entertainment) visa (subclass 420) may be appropriate. This visa allows you to work in the Australian entertainment industry as a performer, or as support or production staff, and also applies to non-profit engagements.

For further information about the specific requirements of the Temporary Work (Entertainment) visa (subclass 420), please refer to the Department's website:

www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/420-

Processing times and applying for a visa

Processing times for visas can vary from less than a day to several months, depending on the type of visa applied for. Longer processing times may be required if the visa requires sponsorship and nomination or if character or health checks are necessary.

When applying, you should ensure that you provide all required documents to support the claims you make in the application. To assist with this, a document checklist is provided on the Department's website for each visa type. Some applications can be lodged online, others must be lodged in Australia or at the nearest overseas Australian visa office. Details of where to apply, if an online application is not available, are included on the Department's website:

<http://www.border.gov.au/about/contact/offices-locations>