



Australian Government

Department of Immigration
and Border Protection

General Information for Visa Applicants

Applying for a visa

Visa application forms are available on the Department's website and many applications can be lodged online. Details about how to apply are included in the information about the particular visa you wish to apply for. A list of visas is available on the Department's website:

<https://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/Visa-listing>

Information about lodging a visa application online is also available at:

<http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa/App/>

Information on where and how to lodge a paper application is available at:

www.border.gov.au/about/contact/offices-locations

Health and character requirements

All visa applicants must be assessed against Australia's health and character requirements. These requirements are designed to protect the safety and security of the Australian community.

Health requirements

As part of the visa application process you may be required to undertake a medical examination, chest x-ray and/or other health checks.

The Department will advise you of the applicable health checks (if any), based on your individual circumstances.

Information on which health checks may apply to you is available on the Department's website:

www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa/Heal/

Character requirements

The onus is on visa applicants to satisfy the character requirements of the *Migration Act 1958*.

Further information on the character requirements is available on the Department's website:

www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa/Char/

If you are unsure whether you satisfy the character requirements because of prior criminal convictions, you should lodge a paper-based application at the overseas Australian visa office nearest to your current place of residence, at least four months prior to the event start date.

Contact information for Australian visa offices is available on the Department's website:

www.border.gov.au/about/contact/offices-locations

Registration or invitation to attend an event

Although this is a separate process to lodging your visa application, when assessing whether you meet the criteria for the grant of a visa, the Department may take into account whether you are registered for and/or were invited to attend the event. Confirmation of your registration and/or a copy of your letter of invitation should accompany your visa application.

Requirements for applicants under 18 years of age

Visa applicants who are under 18 years of age may be required to satisfy additional criteria to ensure that their interests are protected and that Australia meets its international obligations in relation to minors.

Information about documents that may be required for persons younger than 18 years of age is available on the Department's website:

<http://www.border.gov.au/formsanddocuments/documents/1229.pdf>

<http://www.border.gov.au/formsanddocuments/Documents/1257.pdf>

Biometrics Programme

If you are lodging a visa application in a selected location, regardless of your nationality, you may need to provide your biometrics in relation to your visa application, unless exempt. Information about the Biometrics Programme is available on the Department's website:

<http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa/Biom>

Creating an ImmiAccount

ImmiAccount is a single point of entry into the Department's online visa services. Information about ImmiAccount is available on the Department's website: www.border.gov.au/immiaccount

Visa processing times

Information about visa processing times is available on the Department's website:

www.border.gov.au/about/access-accountability/service-standards

Immigration clearance requirements

On arrival in Australia, you must identify yourself, present your travel documents, and complete an Incoming Passenger Card (IPC). The IPC requires travellers to declare their health status and any prior criminal convictions. If you do not meet immigration clearance requirements, you may be refused entry to Australia. Information on Australia's immigration clearance processes is available on the Department's website: www.border.gov.au/Busi/Comp

Obligations of visa holders

You must comply with your visa validity and visa conditions while in Australia. When you receive your Australian visa, you are issued with a visa grant notice that explains the conditions of the visa (including your approved period of stay in Australia and your entry requirements). Your visa may be cancelled if you breach any of the conditions of your visa.

You are advised to carry this visa grant notice when travelling for your own reference.

If your visa expires while you are still in Australia, you will become an unlawful non-citizen and may be detained and removed from Australia. You may also be subject to an exclusion period, which could prevent you from re-entering Australia.

Travel sanctions

For information on countries subject to travel sanctions, please refer to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. Nationals of these countries may not be permitted to travel to and enter Australia. For further information about travel sanctions, please refer:

dfat.gov.au/international-relations/security/sanctions/pages/sanctions.aspx