



Temporary skilled visa options for graduates

There are 2 temporary visa options offered under the General Skilled Migration (GSM) Programme for recent graduates.

These are:

- Skilled – Graduate (subclass 485); and
- Skilled – Recognised Graduate (subclass 476).

Valid for 18 months, these visas allow the holder to live and work in Australia and provide a pathway to permanent residence.

Who can apply?

Skilled – Graduate visa

The onshore Skilled – Graduate visa (subclass 485) is a temporary visa for overseas students in Australia unable to meet the requirements for a permanent or provisional GSM visa. The visa will enable former overseas students to complete a post-graduate professional year, gain skilled work experience or improve their English skills. To be eligible, you need to have recently completed an Australian degree, diploma or trade qualification as a result of at least 2 years study. There is no points test for this visa.

Skilled – Recognised Graduate visa

The offshore Skilled – Recognised Graduate visa (subclass 476) is a temporary visa for people who have graduated in the last 24 months from:

- a course in a specified discipline;
- at a 'recognised' educational institution.

The current list of courses and universities is available from the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (the department) website www.immi.gov.au/skilled/

There is no points test for these visas.

What requirements must you meet?

Skilled Graduate visa

To apply for this visa you must:

- hold an eligible student visa¹ or have held an eligible student visa in the last 6 months;
- be under 45 years of age when your application is lodged;
- nominate an occupation worth 50 or 60 points on the Skilled Occupations List (SOL) that is closely related to your skills and qualifications;
- have applied to have your skills assessed for your nominated occupation;
- have met the Australian study requirement in the last 6 months; and
- have 'competent' English (or 'vocational' English if you have nominated a trade occupation will be accepted until 31 December 2009).

To meet the Australian study requirement, you must have completed one or more degree, diploma or trade qualifications awarded by an Australian educational institution as a result of a course or courses:

- that are registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS);
- that involved a total of at least 2 academic years study in Australia that was completed in no less than 16 calendar months; and
- for which all study undertaken was in English.

Any study used to meet the Australian study requirement must be closely related to your nominated occupation and undertaken on a visa that allows you to study in Australia.

Skilled – Recognised Graduate visa

To apply for this visa you must:

- be 30 years of age or under when your application is lodged;
- have completed a degree in a specified discipline at a recognised educational institution; and
- have competent English.

Further information on these visa categories is available from the department's website www.immi.gov.au/skilled/

All applicants must also satisfy the public interest criteria that they are in good health and of good character.

How to apply

GSM visa applicants can lodge their application using the department's online visa application service www.immi.gov.au/e_visa/

If you wish to lodge a paper application, you will need to complete form 1276 *Application for general skilled migration* and ensure documentation requested in the form is included with your application.

The address for posting your paper application is:

Adelaide Skilled Processing Centre
Department of Immigration and Citizenship
GPO Box 1638
ADELAIDE SA 5001
AUSTRALIA

or if sent by courier:

Adelaide Skilled Processing Centre
Department of Immigration and Citizenship
4th Floor
55 Currie Street
ADELAIDE SA 5000
AUSTRALIA

¹ excluding non-award course, ELICOS, AusAID, government sponsored (Australian or foreign) and Defence Sector students.

You must pay the prescribed Visa Application Charge and payment must accompany your application. Generally, the charge is not refunded if your application is unsuccessful.

For the current Visa Application Charge, see form 990i *Charges* available from the department's website

www.immi.gov.au/allforms/990i.htm. 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.

Pathway to permanent residence

Permanent GSM visas

As a Skilled – Graduate or Skilled – Recognised Graduate visa holder you can lodge an application for a GSM permanent visa at any time during the 18 months of your visa but you will need to be able to meet the requirements for lodging a valid application.

The visas you can apply for are:

- Skilled – Independent (subclass 885);
- Skilled – Sponsored (subclass 886).

Both these visas are points-tested. To be granted a visa, the basic requirements are that:

- you have nominated a 50 or 60 point occupation that is on the SOL;
- you have had your skills assessed by the relevant assessing authority as suitable for working in your nominated occupation;
- the study you used to qualify for your temporary visa must be closely related to your nominated occupation;
- you have 'competent' English (or 'vocational' English if you have nominated a trade occupation will be accepted until 31 December 2009); and
- you meet the pass mark under the points test.

If you are applying for a Skilled – Sponsored visa you will also need to be nominated by a state/territory or sponsored by an eligible Australian relative.

Employer Sponsored visas

Graduate and Recognised Graduate visa holders with the support of an Australian employer may also apply for a permanent Employer Sponsored visa. See www.immi.gov.au/skilled/ for more information.

Unable to meet permanent GSM visa requirements?

Provisional GSM visas

To be granted this visa, the basic requirements are that:

- you have nominated a 50 or 60 point occupation that is on the SOL;
- you have had your skills assessed by the relevant assessing authority as suitable for working in your nominated occupation;
- the study you used to qualify for your temporary visa must be closely related to your nominated occupation;
- either:
 - you have 'competent' English; or
 - you have applied for a Skilled – Regional Sponsored visa subclass 487, have paid a fee to attend English language tuition in a participating state or territory and have 'concessional competent' English; and
- you have been:
 - nominated by a state or territory; or
 - sponsored by an eligible Australian relative living in a designated area or you have applied for an offshore Skilled-Regional Sponsored visa (subclass 475) and have, 'concessional competent' English of an average of 6.0 in an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test.

Further information

Detailed information on the GSM Programme and all visa categories is available from the department's website www.immi.gov.au or Booklet 6, *General Skilled Migration*.

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.