



Australian Government

Department of Immigration  
and Citizenship

# Temporary residence in Australia non-business – general guide

Form

986i

THIS INFORMATION FORM is a guide to entering Australia for temporary residence (non-business) and gives a brief description of the different categories of temporary resident visas.

People who wish to enter Australia as visitors, students or migrants or on business should visit the department's website at [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au) or contact the nearest Australian mission overseas for further information.

This form covers people who intend to enter Australia temporarily, for short or long-term periods, to engage in social, cultural or exchange activities. People in Australia who wish to sponsor temporary residents (where applicable) for non-business purposes should also find it helpful.

## What visa do I apply for?

Applicants for a temporary residence (non-business) visa are required to indicate the visa subclass for which they are applying.

The visa subclasses and a brief description are:

### Emergency (subclass 303)

To facilitate the travel to Australia of persons who have applied for a temporary visa but who have yet to satisfy health and character criteria and who can demonstrate an urgent and compelling need to travel. Apply using form 1003 *Application for an emergency (temporary) visa*.

### Investor Retirement (subclass 405)

Temporary stay for self-supporting persons who wish to retire in Australia and have no dependents other than a spouse. Sponsorship from a State or Territory government agency is required regardless of the period of stay. A designated investment must be lodged in the sponsoring State or Territory. Apply using form 147 *Application for a temporary residence visa (non-business)*. Form 1248i *Information guide for temporary Investor Retirement visa – subclass 405* contains further information on this visa.

### Retirement (subclass 410)

This subclass is closed to all new applicants from 1 July 2005. From 1 July 2005, only persons who currently hold, or have ever held, or who have already lodged an application for, a Retirement (subclass 410) visa prior to 1 July 2005, are eligible for a Retirement (subclass 410) visa.

### Exchange (subclass 411)

For entry of skilled persons under exchange arrangements that provide Australian residents with reciprocal opportunities. Includes people seeking entry under certain bilateral exchange agreements. Apply using form 147 *Application for temporary residence visa (non-business)*.

### Foreign Government Agency (subclass 415)

Allows entry of people as employees, including language and culture teachers, of foreign government agencies which have no official status in Australia, and of foreign government officials who have no diplomatic or official status in Australia intending to conduct official business in Australia. Apply using form 147 *Application for temporary residence visa (non-business)*.

### Special Program (subclass 416)

To promote opportunities for people to experience other cultures and enhance international relations by allowing people to come to Australia as Churchill fellows or under other community-based non-commercial programs which have been approved by Department of Immigration and Citizenship (the department). Apply using form 147 *Application for temporary residence visa (non-business)*.

### Working Holiday (subclass 417)

Promotes international understanding by providing opportunities for young people to experience other cultures by holidaying and travelling in Australia with the opportunity to work to supplement their funds. Apply using form 1150 *Application for a working holiday visa*.

### Educational (subclass 418)

Temporary stay of staff for educational and research institutions or organisations to fill academic, teaching and research positions unable to be filled from within the Australian labour market. Apply using form 147 *Application for temporary residence visa (non-business)*.

### Visiting Academic (subclass 419)

For people whose primary purpose of stay is to observe or participate (without payment) in research projects at the invitation of an Australian tertiary institution or research organisation. Apply using form 147 *Application for temporary residence visa (non-business)*.

### Entertainment (subclass 420)

For persons who are to perform or provide support to performers in the Australian entertainment industry. Apply using form 147 *Application for temporary residence visa (non-business)*.

### Sport (subclass 421)

Allows professional sports people to engage in competition with Australian residents and to improve general sporting standards in Australia through high level competition and training. Apply using form 147 *Application for temporary residence visa (non-business)*.

### Medical Practitioner (subclass 422)

Temporary stay of suitably qualified medical practitioners where there is a demonstrated need to employ practitioners from overseas. Apply using form 147 *Application for temporary residence visa (non-business)*.

### **Media and Film (subclass 423)**

Allows entry of professional media staff; members of overseas news organisations; media and film staff approved under a country-to-country agreement; actors; production and support staff; still-photographers. Apply using form 147 *Application for temporary residence visa (non-business)*.

### **Domestic Worker — Diplomatic or Consular (subclass 426)**

For domestic staff of subclass 995 Diplomatic visa holders posted to Australia. Confirmation in writing of the domestic appointment is required from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Apply using form 147 *Application for temporary residence visa (non-business)*.

### **Domestic Worker — Executive (subclass 427)**

For domestic staff, necessary for representational duties, of certain temporary business residents. Apply using form 147 *Application for temporary residence visa (non-business)*.

### **Religious Worker (subclass 428)**

Allows religious workers, including ministers, priests and spiritual leaders to serve the spiritual needs of their faith in Australia. Apply using form 147 *Application for temporary residence visa (non-business)*.

### **Occupational Trainee (subclass 442)**

Temporary stay of persons to undertake a comprehensive training program of which at least 70% is workplace-based. **Note:** Dependants have 20 hours per week work rights. Apply using form 147 *Application for temporary residence visa (non-business)*.

### **New Zealand Citizen Family Relationship (subclass 461)**

Temporary stay of family unit members of New Zealand citizen Special Category Visa Holders. Apply using form 147 *Application for temporary residence visa (non-business)*.

### **Diplomatic (subclass 995)**

For diplomats, consular officials and consular employees. There is no visa application required. The Foreign Minister must recommend in writing that the visa be granted.

## **Sponsorship**

In most cases people applying for temporary residence in Australia require sponsorship by the prospective employer or interested organisation or a State/Territory government in Australia. Self-sponsorship or sponsorship by an overseas organisation is not permitted. For further information on sponsorship you should contact the nearest Australian mission overseas.

A sponsor (unless a State or Territory government agency sponsor) accepts responsibility for:

- all financial obligations to the Commonwealth incurred by the applicant arising out of the applicant's stay in Australia;
- compliance by the applicant with all relevant legislation and awards in relation to any employment entered into by the applicant in Australia;
- ensuring the activities described in the sponsorship are not varied without the prior approval of the department;
- the departure of the nominee on completion of the activities for which they entered and for any costs that may be involved if the activities end sooner than anticipated.

## **Accompanying family members**

The spouse and dependent children may accompany an applicant for temporary residence for a similar period of stay if they have been included in the sponsorship, except an applicant for the Investor Retirement visa, who may only include their spouse or an applicant for a Domestic Worker (Diplomatic or Consular) visa.

If sponsorship is not a requirement, the applicant should establish that they are able to financially support their dependants during their stay in Australia.

Dependants who are not included in, or processed as part of the initial application and who later wish to join the applicant in Australia, need to apply separately for visas. In most cases, dependants are allowed to work in Australia.

## How do I apply?

Application forms are available from Australian missions overseas, departmental offices in Australia, the department's website at [www.immi.gov.au/allforms/](http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/) and from many travel agencies. Each person who has their own passport needs to complete their own application.

You must provide with your application a valid passport and, if asked, a passport type photograph of each person over 2 years of age included in the application. The application will explain when this is necessary. The application must be signed by the applicant. If unable to sign, a parent or guardian may sign on behalf of the applicant.

## Do I have to pay a charge?

There is a standard non-refundable charge for most visa subclasses. See form 990i *Charges* for more information.

## Do I need health insurance?

Medical treatment in Australia is expensive and in most cases temporary residents are not eligible to access Australia's subsidised health care system.

You are advised to take out health insurance for yourself and your family, unless there is a reciprocal health care arrangement between Australia and your country of citizenship covering your stay.

It is a legal requirement for a retiree visa or occupational trainee visa that the applicant makes adequate arrangements for health insurance for the period of their stay in Australia.

Applicants seeking an Investor Retirement (subclass 405) visa are required by law to hold a private health insurance package that meets Department of Health and Ageing guidelines (that is, a private health insurance package that provides medical and pharmaceutical cover similar to that under Medicare, and private hospital accommodation cover).

## Education of dependants

Details concerning access and cost of education for dependants may vary between individual states. Applicants should contact relevant local education authorities for details. It should be noted that medical and radiological examinations may be required for persons in a classroom situation.

## Conditions of entry and stay

People wishing to enter Australia must meet health and character criteria. Some applicants may need to undergo a medical and a chest x-ray before a visa is granted. Information on the health requirement is provided in form 1163i *Health requirement for temporary entry to Australia*. Retirement visa applicants will be assessed as for permanent entry. For further information refer to form 1071i *Health requirement for permanent entry to Australia*.

Temporary residence visas provide permission to remain in Australia for the duration of the approved stay. This normally includes permission to travel and re-enter Australia during that period.

*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.