

Other temporary entrants

Social/Cultural visas

The Social/Cultural Stream under the temporary visa category allows for the entry of people taking part in a range of sporting, entertainment, academic and cultural activities. A total of 29 100 Social/Cultural Temporary visas were granted in 2006-07, an increase of 4.7 per cent compared with 27 782 in 2005-06.

Sport – for amateur or professional sports people to engage in competition with Australian residents. The Sports visa holder is to improve the quality of a sport in Australia through participation in high-level competition and training with Australian residents (3297 visas granted in 2006-07).

Entertainment – for people seeking to perform or take part in a film or television production (13 486 visas granted in 2006-07).

Religious worker – for religious workers, including ministers, priests and spiritual leaders to serve the spiritual needs of people of their faiths in Australia (1536 visas granted in 2006-07).

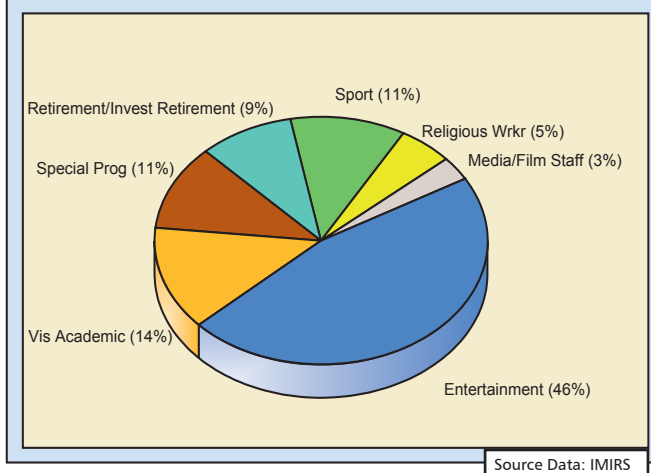
Visiting academic – allows the entry of academics whose primary purpose of stay is to observe or participate in research projects at the invitation of an Australian tertiary institution or research organisation. Applicants must provide a letter of invitation from the institution. No remuneration (other than an allowance towards living expenses) must be paid to the visa holder (3932 visas granted in 2006-07).

Media and film staff – for professional staff members of overseas news organisations or television/film crew producing documentary programs or commercials for use outside Australia. There were 907 visas granted in 2006-07. Media staff who do not represent an overseas news organisation should apply under the Temporary Business (Long or Short stay) visa.

Special Program – for persons to participate in youth exchange schemes, approved community-based non-commercial programs or to visit Australia as Churchill Fellowship holders (3237 visas granted in 2006-07).

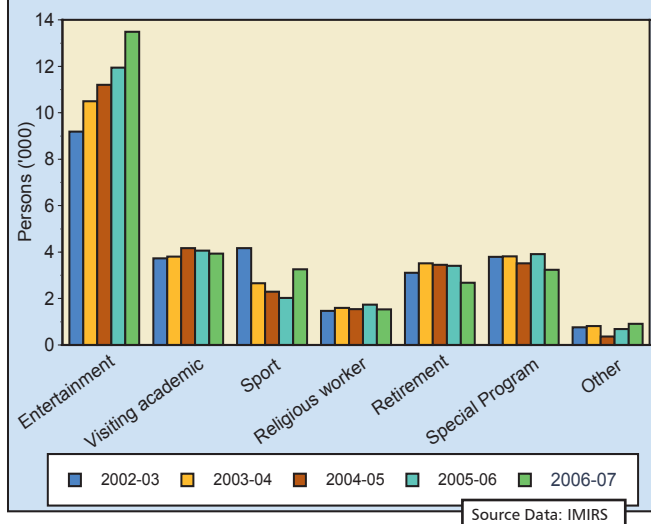
Retirement (Retirement visa and Retirement Investor visa) – allows for the temporary entry of people who may not be eligible for permanent residence but who are self-sufficient and unlikely to impose a burden on Australia's health and welfare budget. Continuing temporary status ensures that access to Medicare, citizenship and sponsorship provisions is precluded, while minimised ongoing visa requirements give greater certainty to long term stay (2676 visas granted in 2006-07, which includes grants for existing visa holders extending their stay in Australia).

Fig. 3-28: Social/Cultural visa grants 2006-07



Source Data: IMIRS

Fig. 3-29: Social/Cultural visa grants



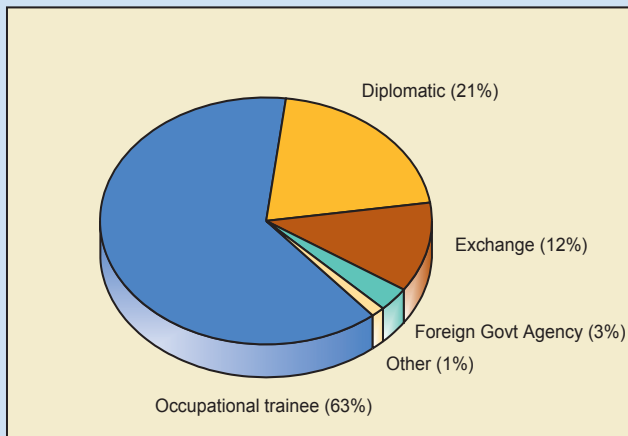
Source Data: IMIRS

International Relations visas

The International Relations Stream under the Temporary visa category aims to promote Australia's relations with other countries and foster goodwill, for example by allowing for the entry of persons working for foreign governments, organisations funded by foreign governments and international organisations, as well as persons entering under exchange or bilateral agreements.

A total of 10 054 international relations visas were granted in 2006-07, down by 4.8 per cent compared with 10 541 in 2005-06.

Fig. 3-30: International Relations visa grants 2006-07



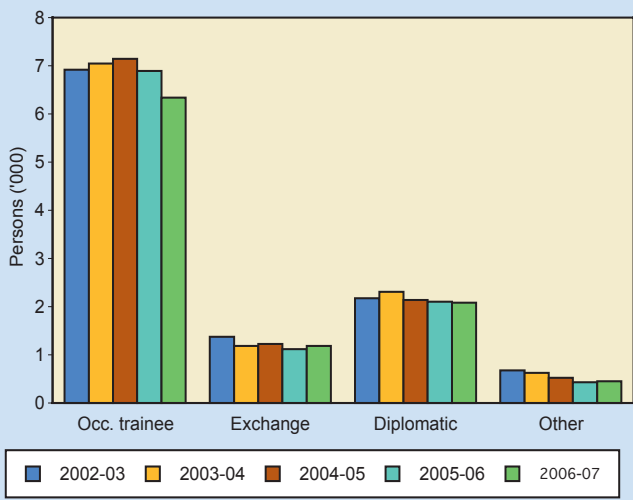
Source Data: IMIRS

Foreign government agency – to enable foreign government officials to conduct official business on behalf of their government; where the officials do not have diplomatic or official status in Australia; and certain foreign language teachers who are to be employed in Australia by their home government. A stay of more than three months requires sponsorship by a foreign government agency (317 visas granted in 2006-07).

Domestic Worker (diplomatic) – intended for adult domestic workers employed in a private capacity by diplomatic and consular representatives posted to Australia. DFAT endorsement is required (109 visas granted in 2006-07).

Domestic Worker (Executive) – provides for the entry of persons to be employed as domestic workers by certain holders of Temporary Business Entry visa 457 in order to assist executives with their representational and entertainment responsibilities (24 visas granted in 2006-07).

Fig. 3-31: International Relations visa grants



Source Data: IMIRS

Occupational Trainee – allows people from overseas to undertake a supervised training program in Australia that is workplace-based rather than classroom-based. It is designed specifically to add to, or enhance, a person's level of skill in their present occupation or area of expertise. A nomination from the Australian organisation providing the training program must be approved before a visa application may be granted (6337 visas granted in 2006-07).

Trade Skills Training – allows people from overseas to undertake apprenticeships on a full-fee paying basis in trades that have a skills shortage.

Professional Development - allows for the temporary entry of groups of professionals, managers and government officials from overseas who are seeking to enhance their professional/managerial skills by taking part in tailored training programs designed by an Australian sponsoring organisation. (319 visas were granted in 2006-07).

Exchange – for skilled persons entering under exchange arrangements giving Australian residents reciprocal opportunities to work with overseas organisations. (1185 visas granted in 2006-07).

Diplomatic – for diplomats, consular staff and other officials, accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2082 visas granted in 2006-07).