

Skilled visas for Australia



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	Type of visa	Visa duration	Sponsorship required?	Required to work in regional Australia?	General Skilled Migration points test	Skill requirements	Additional information
Employer sponsored categories	Subclass 457 – Business (Long Stay)	From one day up to four years	Yes, by an employer	No, unless approved prior to 14 September 2009 under regional certification arrangements	This visa is not points tested	Applicant must have the skills necessary to perform the occupation and English language skills unless exempted	Occupation must be on the relevant legislative instrument and terms and conditions of employment must be no less favourable than those that are provided to an Australian performing equivalent work Dependants have full work/study rights
	Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) (121 and 856)	Permanent	Yes, by an employer	No	This visa is not points tested	Skills assessment by relevant Australian authority, three years full-time work experience and registration or licensing if required	Occupation must be on the Employer Nomination Scheme Occupation List (ENSOL). Employee to be paid minimum salary with equivalent working conditions in-line with relevant Australian legislation
	Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS) (119 and 857)	Permanent	Yes, by a regional employer	Yes	This visa is not points tested	Relevant diploma or higher qualification and registration or licensing if required	Once visa is granted, applicant must work for the sponsoring employer for two years
General Skilled Migration (GSM) categories	Skilled – Independent (175 and 885)	Permanent	No	No	Points test pass mark: 65 points	Nominated occupation must be on the applicable Skilled Occupation List (SOL) and skills assessed by relevant assessing authority	Have recently completed an Australian qualification in Australia, or have recent relevant skilled employment Be under 50
	Skilled – Sponsored (886 and 176)	Permanent	Yes, by a state/territory government or an eligible Australian relative	No	Points test pass mark: 65 points	Nominated occupation must be on the applicable SOL and skills assessed by relevant assessing authority	Have recently completed an Australian qualification in Australia, or have recent relevant skilled employment Be under 50
	Skilled – Regional Sponsored (provisional) (487 and 475)	Three years with option to apply for one further 12 month visa	Yes, by a state/territory government or an eligible Australian relative	Yes, an applicant must live, work and study in a specified regional area	Points test pass mark: 65 points	Nominated occupation must be on the applicable SOL and skills assessed by relevant assessing authority	Have recently completed an Australian qualification in Australia, or have recent relevant skilled employment Be under 50
	Skilled – Regional (887)	Permanent	No	No	This visa is not points tested	Must hold an eligible provisional visa	Must have lived for at least two years and worked full-time for at least 12 months in a Specified Regional Area while holding an eligible provisional GSM visa
	Skilled – Graduate (485)	18 months	No	No	This visa is not points tested	Nominated occupation must be on the applicable SOL, skills assessed by relevant assessing authority and English language threshold met	This visa is for overseas students who have in the last six months completed an Australian qualification in Australia and seek a further temporary stay to work in Australia Be under 50
	Skilled – Recognised Graduate (476)	18 months	No	No	This visa is not points tested	Must have completed a bachelor degree or higher qualification in a specified discipline at a recognised overseas educational institution in the last 24 months, and meet English language threshold	This visa is for engineering graduates from recognised overseas educational institutions who have skills in demand in Australia Be under 31