



Fact Sheet

Options that may be available to people who are not able to apply for independent general skilled migration

On 1 July 2010 a new Skilled Occupation List (SOL) came into effect.

If you find that you are not able to apply for General Skilled Migration (GSM), you may be able to apply for other visas provided you meet all the relevant legislative criteria.

Examples:

- You may want to consider applying for a temporary or permanent visa under the Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) on completion of your studies. The list of occupations that is available to employer sponsored applicants is broader than the SOL. You will, however, be required to have an employer willing to sponsor you.
See: www.immi.gov.au/skilled/skilled-workers/
- You may be eligible to apply for skilled migration under the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS). This scheme allows employers in regional or low population growth areas of Australia to sponsor employees who are foreign nationals for a permanent visa to work in regional Australia.
See: www.immi.gov.au/skilled/skilled-workers/rsms/
- You may want to consider your eligibility for state/territory nomination. It is intended that individual state/territory migration plans will be agreed to by the Minister for implementation in the second half of 2010. These plans may include occupations outside those specified on a new SOL. Implementation of state/territory migration plans will be subject to the approval of the Governor-General in Council of proposed amendments to the *Migration Regulations 1994*.
- You may want to apply for a further student visa to pursue further qualifications in Australia.
Note that if your intention is to seek permanent residence in Australia in the future, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship does not recommend this option, as the SOL may change in line with the requirements of the Australian labour market.
See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/students/>

If none of the above options are open to you, you would need to leave Australia before your current visa expires. Remaining in the country unlawfully may jeopardise your ability to apply for further visas to re-enter Australia for a period of three years.

If your current visa is due to expire, or you are unlawful please ensure you visit an immigration office nearest to you to seek advice on your visa options and your immigration status. Contact details for immigration offices are available on the department's website.

See: www.immi.gov.au/contacts/australia/

The department is operating a dedicated phone line to respond to any queries on the new list of occupations.

Telephone: 1300 735 683