



Post-Study Work Arrangements — (Recommendation 4)

The following information provides further detail on the planned Knight Review changes to the student visa program.

Frequently asked questions

New post-study work visa arrangements are proposed for introduction in early 2013. Under Australia's legislative system, regulations must be approved by the Governor-General. The information provided below explains how the Department of Immigration and Citizenship intends the post-study work arrangements to operate. This should be read as a proposed set of arrangements for the Governor-General's consideration in due course.

More detailed advice about eligibility requirements will be made available as legislation to support the visa is put in place.

Who will be able to access the post-study work visa?

Certain graduates of an Australian Bachelor degree, Masters by coursework degree, Masters by research degree or Doctoral degree will have access to the post-study work visa.

Will there be a requirement for applicants to have previously held a student visa?

Yes. To be eligible for the post-study work visa, students must have completed their studies in Australia while on a student visa. Applicants who have undertaken studies while on other visas which allow study, such as dependents of Temporary Business (Long Stay) – Standard Business Sponsorship (Subclass 457) visa holders, would not be eligible for the post-study work visa.

What will the visa eligibility requirements be?

In the last six months before applying for the visa, the applicant must have completed a Bachelor degree (or a higher level course such as a Masters or Doctoral degree) obtained in Australia.

Graduates must also meet the Australian study requirement. The Australian study requirement is defined as study in Australia in a course registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) for a period of at least 2 academic years (92 weeks). The course itself should be conducted in English and should be completed in no less than 16 calendar months. The level of study must be at either Bachelor degree, Masters by coursework degree, Masters by research degree or Doctoral degree – courses packaged together with a Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma will not be eligible, even if the total duration of study equals 92 weeks.

English language, health, character and security requirements will need to be met and evidence of adequate health insurance for the duration of the visa will need to be provided.

What level of English language will be required?

The English language requirement will be competent English, which is a minimum score of 6 in each of the four components of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test or the equivalent score in another English language test that may be specified by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship for use with this visa.

Do applicants need to nominate an occupation on the Skilled Occupation List when applying for this visa?

No. Applicants eligible to apply for this visa would not be required to nominate an occupation on the Skilled Occupation List or undertake a skills assessment.

How long will the post-study work visa be valid?

Graduates who have completed a Bachelor degree or Masters by coursework degree in Australia will be eligible to apply for a two year post-study work visa.

Graduates who have completed a Masters by research degree or a Doctoral degree in Australia will be eligible to apply for a post-study work visa for three or four years respectively.

When will the post-study work visa be available to graduating students?

These new arrangements will be ready for students who made their student visa applications after 5 November 2011, the date on which the first Knight Review measures were implemented. These students will begin to graduate from early 2013 onwards, so the post-study work visa arrangements are designed to be ready for them in 2013.

Does this change affect existing student visa holders?

No. Students currently studying in Australia are still entitled to apply for the existing Temporary Skilled Graduate visa (subclass 485). The subclass 485 visa allows students to remain temporarily in Australia with work rights at the completion of their studies. Information about the current subclass 485 visa can be found on the department's website.

See: www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/485/

Will the post-study work visa be available to someone who already holds or has ever held a Skilled – Graduate (subclass 485) visa?

No. Students will only be able to access post-study work rights once.

Will there be similar arrangements in place for students not studying a degree?

No, this arrangement would only be for graduates who obtain a Bachelor degree or higher qualification. Existing arrangements for other students would continue to apply in line with the government's commitment to the current transitional arrangements in place until the end of 2012.

Other students would continue to have access to the Temporary Skilled Graduate (subclass 485) visa. The subclass 485 visa is a temporary visa that allows an 18 month stay to work in Australia. The existing subclass 485 visa is available to eligible students provided they satisfy the criteria for the grant of that visa, including that they:

- have recently completed an eligible qualification(s) as a result of at least two years study in Australia
- have a skills assessment for an occupation on the Skilled Occupation List (SOL)
- meet the English language requirement of competent English (equivalent to IELTS 6 in all four components)
- are under 50 years of age.

Information about the current subclass 485 visa is available.

See: www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/485/

Will there be consultation with the international education sector on this proposed recommendation?

Yes. The department will work with key stakeholders to develop this recommendation.

Where do I go for more information?

More information will be provided on the department's website as it becomes available.

See: www.immi.gov.au/students/knight/