



Recent changes to General Skilled Migration

Information for current and former student visa holders

In February 2010, the Australian Government announced a number of changes to its Skilled Migration program. These changes included the withdrawal of the Migration Occupation in Demand List and the introduction of a new Skilled Occupation List.

See: www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/pdf/new-list-of-occupations.pdf (100KB PDF file)

These changes were not retrospective. Anyone who had applied for a General Skilled Migration visa before the announcement of the changes will be assessed on the basis of the old Skilled Occupation list.

The changes included generous transitional arrangements which have been extended to current and former students. These transitional arrangements are in place until the end of 2012.

- They allow anyone who held or had applied for a Temporary Skilled Graduate visa (subclass 485) on 8 February 2010 to apply for permanent General Skilled Migration on the basis of the old Skilled Occupation List.
- They also allow anyone who held a qualifying Student visa when the changes were announced on 8 February 2010 to apply for a Temporary Skilled Graduate visa (Subclass 485) on the basis of the old Skilled Occupation List. Qualifying student visas are subclasses 572, 573 and 574.

The Temporary Skilled Graduate visa (Subclass 485) provides a stay period of 18 months and allows the holder to work or study in Australia.

These arrangements provide current and former students with time to explore further visa options. Apart from General Skilled Migration, other visa options are available through employer or state/territory sponsorship. Information about other visa options can be found on the department's website.

See: www.immi.gov.au/skilled/skilled-workers/visa-options.htm

It is important to understand that while there are visa options, there can be no guarantee of a further visa. The grant of a further visa depends on whether an individual applicant meets the requirements for that visa at the time they apply.

Information about these changes and the transitional arrangements in place are available on the Department of Immigration and Citizenship's website.

See: www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/whats-new.htm

There is also an inquiry line 1300 735 683 established for queries about the changes. If you are currently in Australia and you need assistance in discussing these changes with the department, the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) provides interpreting services to non-English speakers to assist them in communicating with the department.

To use an interpreter over the telephone.

Telephone: 131 450