



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Immigration and Citizenship**

## **Studying in Australia**

### **Financial Capacity Requirements – Assessment Level 4**

To get a student visa to study in Australia you must show the department that you have enough money to pay for your travel, education and living costs while you are in Australia. If you have a partner or children under 18 years of age you must also have enough money to support them, even if they do not intend to travel to Australia with you.

#### **How much money do I need to show?**

The department works out a student's costs using fixed amounts in **Australian dollars** (in most cases). These costs show the minimum level of financial capacity needed for your visa application. These costs do not necessarily reflect the total cost of living in Australia.

<b>Course fees per year</b>	\$Your course fees
<b>Living costs per year in Australia:</b>	
You (the main student visa applicant)	\$12 000
Your spouse	\$4 200
First child	\$2 400
Each extra child	\$1 800
<b>School costs</b> each year for every child aged five years and over and less than 18 years	\$8 000
<b>Travel costs</b> to and from Australia (one return trip only per person)	\$Estimated airfare

You must show that you have access to enough money to meet the above costs for the first three years of your intended stay in Australia. You will also be required to provide a declaration stating that you have access to sufficient funds to meet costs for the remainder of your expected stay in Australia. This declaration is part of the application form 157A *Application for a student (temporary) visa*.

**Important:** Generally you will be required to show enough money for yourself and all your family members, even if they do not intend to accompany you to Australia. There are some exceptions to this requirement, depending on your personal circumstances. More information about these exceptions is available on the department's website.

**See:** [Visa Options](#)

## Where can the money come from?

The money to support you must come from one or more acceptable sources. Examples of acceptable sources include, but are not limited to:

- money held in a bank account by you, your parents, grandparents, brother, sister, spouse, aunt or uncle for at **least six months** immediately before you lodge your visa application  
**Note:** An aunt/uncle is only acceptable if they are a citizen or permanent resident of Australia, or an eligible New Zealand citizen. They must also be usually resident in Australia.
- a loan from an **approved** financial institution to one of the above people, or a loan from the government of your country
- in some circumstances, financial support from your education provider or another organisation may be allowed.

Non-cash assets such as property and shares are not acceptable. However, non-cash assets may be liquidated or used as collateral on a loan, provided the non-cash assets are provided by an acceptable source.

A complete list of acceptable sources for Assessment Level 4 for each student visa subclass is available on the department's website.

**See:** [Visa Options](#)

## Working out your costs

Complete the calculations below to work out the financial capacity you need to show.

**Note:** You must show **actual funds for the first three years** of your study and stay in Australia (or the full period if applying to study for less than two years).

### 1. Course costs

<b>Course 1</b>	\$ Course costs each year	X	Length of course in years (up to total of three years)	=	\$ Total cost of course	<b>A</b>
<b>Course 2</b>	\$ Course costs each year	X	Remainder of three years (subtract length of Course One)	=	\$ Total cost of course	<b>B</b>

### 2. Living costs

If you have a spouse or children you **must** include their costs, even if they are not going to Australia with you.

<b>You</b>	\$12 000	X	Three years (or less if in Australia for shorter period)	=	\$	<b>C</b>
<b>Your partner</b>	\$4 200	X		=	\$	<b>D</b>
<b>Your first child</b>	\$2 400	X		=	\$	<b>E</b>
<b>Each extra child</b> No. <input type="checkbox"/> x \$1 800		X		=	\$	<b>F</b>

### 3. Child school costs

You must include \$8 000 school costs for every dependent child aged from 5 to less than 18 years, even if they are not going to Australia with you.

**Note:** This does not apply to the main applicant for a Subclass 571 (Schools sector) visa.

Children 5 to under 18 years No. <input type="checkbox"/> x \$8 000	X	Three years (or less if in Australia for shorter period)	=	\$	<b>G</b>
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### 4. Travel costs

Include travel costs for one trip to and from Australia for you and any family members who are applying to go to Australia with you.

Cost of airfare to and from Australia \$	X	Number of persons travelling	=	\$	<b>H</b>
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### Total required financial capacity

To work out your total costs, **add** all the amounts from boxes **A** to **H**

This is the total amount of money you must show from one or more acceptable sources.

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You must also provide a declaration of access to additional funds if you intend to study in Australia for more than three years.

## Examples

Vishal is applying for a **Higher Education sector (subclass 573) visa** to do a three-year bachelor degree, with course costs of \$15 000 each year. Before starting this course he must do a six-month English language course at a cost of \$5 000. He has a wife and one six-year-old daughter who will both accompany him to Australia. His costs are worked out over 3½ years as follows:

### Course costs

English course @ \$5 000 total	\$5 000
Bachelor course @ \$15 000 x 2.5 years	\$40 500

### Living costs each year

Vishal @12 000 x 3 years	\$36 000
Wife @ \$4 200 x 3 years	\$12 600
Child @ \$2 400 x 3 years	\$7 200

### Child education costs each year

1 child @\$8 000 x 3 years	\$24 000
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### Travel costs (Example: \$2 000 each x 3 people)

\$6 000

**Total Cost** **\$130 800**

Vishal must show the department that he has access to \$130 800 from acceptable sources. He must also sign a declaration stating that he has access to enough additional funds to cover the last ½ year of his studies.

Hannah is applying for a **Vocational Education and Training sector (subclass 572) visa** to do a two-year advanced diploma course, with course costs of \$5 000 each year. She has a 12 year old son who will not be travelling to Australia. Her costs are worked out over two years as follows:

### Course costs

@ \$5 000 x 2 years	\$10 000
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### Living costs each year

Hannah @12 000 x 2 years	\$24 000
Child @ \$2 400 x 2 years	\$4 800

### Child education costs each year

1 child @\$8 000 x 2 years	\$16 000
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### Travel costs (Example: \$1 800 x 1 person)

\$1 800

**Total Cost** **\$56 600**

Hannah must show the department that she has access to \$56 600 from acceptable sources.

Luo Ke is applying for a **Schools sector (subclass 571) visa** to do a two-year secondary school course (Years 11 and 12), with course costs of \$12 000 per year. Before he starts this course, he will also undertake a three-month English language course, with course costs of \$4 000.

### Course costs

English course @ \$4 000	\$4 000
School course @ \$12 000 x 2 years	\$24 000

### Living costs each year

@\$12 000 x 2 years	\$24 000
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### Travel costs (Example: \$1 800 x 1 person)

\$1 800

**Total Cost** **\$53 800**

Luo Ke must show the department that he has access to \$53 800 from acceptable sources.