



## Australia

### Visa Arrangements

*Please be aware that Study Abroad Office staff are not qualified to offer consultations or in-depth advice regarding visa applications. Immigration laws are complex and subject to frequent changes, and you should note the date of last revision at the bottom of this document. If you do have any further questions about the process of applying for your visa you will need to contact the appropriate embassy or consulate directly. The information below is intended as guidance only and unless otherwise stated applies only to UK citizens without exceptional circumstances.*

#### **Before you can apply for your Australian Student Visa you must first:**

1. Receive your official offer letter from the host university, and formally accept your place.
2. Pay your OSHC (health insurance) fee to the host university.
3. Receive your Confirmation of Enrollment (CoE) document from the host institution (which they will send to you by email when you have completed steps 1 and 2 above).

As the semester begins in mid-July in Australia, you should apply for your visa **immediately** on receiving your Confirmation of Enrollment document.

#### **Check Your 'Assessment Level'**

Each visa application is processed according to an assessment level. This is based on your nationality and relates to how likely students from your home country are to comply with their visa conditions, based on previous students' behaviour. The higher the assessment level, the more evidence you will need to provide as part of your application, in particular when it comes to demonstrating your financial capacity.

British passport holders are classed as Assessment Level 1 (AL1).

All of the advice on page two of this document is aimed at AL1 students. If you are not AL1, then you should consult the Australian Immigration department website for full guidelines and you will most likely have to make a postal application, rather than an online application. This will need more time.

To verify which Assessment Level you are, check the following table:

<http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Stud/Stud>

#### **Streamlined Visa Processing**

Some of our partner universities are deemed eligible for 'streamlined visa processing' by the Australian Department of Immigration. This means that even if you are not AL1, your application is eligible to be treated

in a similar way. The partner university will send you more information about this with your offer letter, if applicable.

### **Which type of Student Visa?**

There are eight subclasses of Australian student visa. You should apply for subclass 575 – Non-Award (as you will not be graduating from an Australian university). This visa costs \$550 AUD.

### **Length of Visa**

This visa permits multiple entries to Australia, allowing you to go travelling during your summer holiday and re-enter Australia without applying for a new visa.

Visas will usually be granted for two months longer than the duration of your course, or until the expiry date of your OSHC – whichever comes first.

### **Permission to Work**

Once your course has started, the Australian student visa allows you to work for 40 hours per fortnight during term time, and unlimited hours during holidays. You cannot work before the start of your course.

### **Preparing to Apply**

You can read full information about the student visa (subclass 575 Assessment Level 1) on the Australian Government's Department of Immigration website: <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/575->

### **Financial and Health Requirements**

As part of your application you must declare that you are able to support yourself financially while in Australia. For assessment level 1 applicants this does not involve submitting any documentary evidence.

You must also provide details about your state of health. The majority of applicants will not have to undergo any kind of medical examination, but this may occasionally be necessary in certain circumstances, for example:

- you are likely to enter a classroom environment, including preschool, crèche and child care situations
- you are known or suspected of having a medical condition, regardless of your length of stay

If unsure, you can check the medical requirements here: <http://www.border.gov.au/Lega/Lega/heal>

### **Submitting Your Application**

As an Assessment Level 1 applicant, you are eligible to apply for your visa online:

<http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa/Appl/Student>

You can save your application before submitting, and return to submit later if you are unable to complete it in one sitting. Please make sure you do not submit an incomplete application.

### **Receiving Your Visa**

Feedback from past students indicates that once your application has been submitted, you will receive your visa relatively quickly, often (although not always) within a week. The guideline processing time is 14 days. As correspondence will be received via email, please make sure you check your junk mail regularly while waiting for your visa.

Please ensure you print a copy of your 'Visa Grant Notification', which you should receive by email. Take this in your hand luggage when you travel to Australia.