



Australian Government

Department of Immigration and
Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs

Visiting Australia general requirements

Form

983i

THIS INFORMATION FORM is about applying to visit Australia for short periods for:

- tourism (sightseeing);
- seeing relatives or friends;
- pre-arranged medical treatment or consultation;
- short term study.

Australia welcomes visitors and we try to keep formalities to a minimum. However, Australia has conditions of entry that visitors are expected to observe.

What visa do I apply for?

There are four visitor visa classes:

(A) Short stay visitor

This class is for a stay of **three months or less**, and includes the following subclass:

676 Tourist (short stay) – to sightsee, travel, visit friends and relatives, and be involved in other short-term non-working activities.

Short-stay visitors are usually given a three month stay.

(B) Long stay visitor

This visa is for a stay of **more than three months**, and includes the following subclass:

686 Tourist (long stay) – same as the short stay tourist visa.

Generally a Long Stay Visitor visa is granted for a stay of 6 months, however, a stay up to 12 months can be granted depending on the applicant's circumstances. A stay beyond 12 months is **ONLY** granted where "exceptional" circumstances exist.

(C) Medical treatment

This class is for medical treatment, either elective or emergency. Anyone accompanying you must also apply for a medical treatment visa. This class includes the following subclasses:

675 Medical treatment (short stay) – for stay of 3 months or less.

685 Medical treatment (long stay) – for stay of more than 3 months.

(D) Sponsored Visitor

If an Australian citizen or permanent resident is going to guarantee your visit, you can apply as a Sponsored Visitor.

This visa is for a stay of **three months or less**, and allows only **one single entry**. It includes the following subclasses:

459 Sponsored Business Visitor (short stay)

679 Sponsored Family Visitor (short stay)

Special conditions and requirements apply, and penalties will be imposed if any visa conditions are breached.

Sponsored Family Visitors need to complete form 48S.

Sponsored Business Visitors need to complete form 456.

Sponsors need to complete the sponsorship form 1149.

Sponsors may be requested to arrange for the lodgement of a security bond.

The amount of the security bond is determined on a case by case basis by the delegated overseas officer and is generally between A\$5,000 and A\$15,000 per person. It should be noted, however, under the *Migration Act 1958* the decision to request a security bond is at the discretion of the delegated officer.

Therefore, depending on the circumstances of the individual case, the delegated officer may ask for a security bond of any amount that they see as appropriate.

How do I apply?

Application forms are available from Australian missions overseas and from many travel agencies. Application forms can also be obtained from the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) website at **www.immi.gov.au**. Each person with their own passport must complete a visa application.

You must provide with your application a valid passport and, if asked, a passport-type photograph of each person over two years of age included in the application. The application form will explain when this is necessary. The application form must be signed by the applicant. If unable to sign, a parent or guardian may sign on behalf of the applicant.

Children travelling on a parent's passport need not complete a separate application.

Each applicant must be in good health and of good character.

The form should be lodged at the nearest Australian mission.

If a travel agent is making arrangements for you, you must still sign the application.

Do I need a sponsor?

Only if you are applying for a Sponsored Visitor Visa. For other visitor classes you may however, be asked to supply evidence of support from relatives or friends.

Do I have to pay a charge?

There is a non-refundable charge which must accompany each application. For further information, see Form 990i *Charges*.

Do I need health insurance?

It is recommended that you take out health insurance for you and your family for the period of your stay in Australia. You will not be covered by Australia's National health scheme, unless you are covered by a reciprocal health care agreement.

Residential address

You must provide the address of where you intend to live while your application is being dealt with. Failure to give a residential address in your application will result in your application being invalid. A Post Office box address will not be accepted as your residential address.

Vaccinations

If it is your intention to enrol your child in an Australian school or childcare centre (creche or preschool) during your visit to Australia, you are strongly encouraged to carry certification of your child's vaccination status. Vaccination is recommended against polio, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), *Haemophilus influenzae* hypo B (Hib), and Hepatitis B.

Certification may be sought at time of enrolment.

Note: Vaccination against rubella is also recommended for women of child bearing age.

When can I travel?

Visitor visas are usually valid for one year for multiple journeys to Australia. You can apply for a visa allowing multiple travel for up to 4 years, with a stay of 3 or 6 months on each visit.

What conditions apply?

Visitor visas are subject to conditions. If you breach these conditions, your visa may be cancelled and you will be required to leave Australia.

The conditions are:

- If you intend to study, you may be required to have a chest x-ray;
- You may not study for more than 3 months during your stay;
- You may not work during your stay;
- You may not, after entering Australia, be entitled to be granted any other visa¹, while you remain in Australia;
- There may be other visa conditions, depending on the purpose of your visit.

Can I extend my stay?

If you need to extend your stay, you must apply for a further stay as a visitor before your current visa expires. For more information, refer to form 985i which can be obtained from the DIMIA website at www.immi.gov.au

Some visas may not allow a further visa in Australia. You will be told if this applies to you when your application is decided. If so, it means that you cannot get a further visa for temporary stay or permanent residence in Australia.

Authorisation of a person to receive written communications

You may authorise another person to receive all written communications about your application with DIMIA. To do this, you will need to complete the sections of the form with the heading *Options for receiving written communications* and *Authorised person details*. The authorised person will need to sign at the section *Authorised person details*. You can only appoint one authorised person at any time.

If you nominate an authorised person, DIMIA will send to that person any written communications relating to your application that would otherwise have been sent to you. You will be taken to have received any documents sent to that person as if they had been sent to you.

If you decide to change the authorised person that you have nominated after you have lodged your application, you must promptly advise DIMIA in writing of the details of that person.

Authorisation of a migration agent to act on your behalf

If you have a migration agent acting on your behalf in relation to your application, you need to complete the sections of the form with the heading *Options for receiving written communications* and *Migration agent details*. The migration agent will need to sign at the section *Migration agent details*.

Appointing a migration agent to act on your behalf includes authorising DIMIA to send to that agent any written communication about your application that would otherwise have been sent to you. You will be taken to have received any documents sent to that agent as if they had been sent to you.

When you provide details of the migration agent, please make sure you give the agent's 7-digit migration agent registration number (MARN) and the agent's full name.

If you change your migration agent or end his/her appointment after you have lodged this application, you must promptly advise DIMIA by using form 956 *Appointment of a migration agent*, which is available on the DIMIA website or from your migration agent. You should also notify the agent of this, preferably in writing.

Using a migration agent

You are not required to use a migration agent to assist with your application. However, if you intend to use a migration agent, you are advised to use a registered migration agent.

Under Australian law, anyone who uses knowledge of migration procedures to offer immigration assistance to a person who is sponsoring a person wishing to obtain a visa to enter or remain in Australia must be registered.

A list of registered migration agents is available from the Migration Agents Registration Authority (MARA) website www.themara.com.au

You can contact the MARA at:

PO Box Q1551
QVB NSW 1230
AUSTRALIA

Telephone: 61 2 9299 5446

Facsimile: 61 2 9299 8448

E-mail: themara@themara.com.au

Registered migration agents are bound by the Migration Agents Code of Conduct and generally charge for their services.

The MARA investigates complaints against registered migration agents and may take disciplinary action against them. If you have a concern about a registered migration agent, you should contact the MARA. You can also download a copy of the complaint form from the MARA's website.

Consent to communicate electronically

DIMIA may use a range of means to communicate with you. However, electronic means such as fax or e-mail will only be used if you indicate your agreement to receiving communication in this way.

To process your application DIMIA may need to communicate with you about sensitive information, for example, health, police checks, financial viability and personal relationships. Electronic communications, unless adequately encrypted, are not secure and may be viewed by others or interfered with. If you agree to DIMIA communicating with you by electronic means, the details you provide will only be used by DIMIA for the purpose for which you have provided them, unless there is a legal obligation or necessity to use them for another purpose, or you have consented to use for another purpose. They will not be added to any mailing list.

The Commonwealth Government accepts no responsibility for the security or integrity of any information sent to DIMIA over the internet or by other electronic means.

DIMIA enquiry line

Telephone **131 881** for the cost of a local call (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). This number is available only in Australia. If you are outside Australia, please contact your nearest Australian mission.

Home page

www.immi.gov.au

¹ Except in extremely limited circumstances which are outside your control, or to engage Australia's protection obligation under the 1951 UN convention relating to the status of refugees.