Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

General visa information for Event Participants

Australia's visa requirements

All non-Australian citizens travelling to Australia to participate in an event must hold a valid visa to enter the country. The most appropriate visa option will depend on the participant's individual circumstances including their country of passport, role in the event, intended activities and length of stay in Australia.

ImmiAccount – your gateway to an Australian visa

Applicants must apply online for most Australian visas through ImmiAccount. When setting up an ImmiAccount, applicants should ensure they select the option to receive electronic communications, including updates about their application. See here for information on how to create an ImmiAccount or login.

Visa processing times

Participants should lodge their visa application 6 to 8 weeks prior to their intended travel date to allow sufficient time for processing. Visa applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis, and actual processing times may vary depending on individual circumstances, including:

- whether the applicant has lodged a complete application, including all required supporting documents and paid any applicable Visa Application Charge (VAC) Check twice, submit once
- how promptly the applicant responds to any requests for additional information
- how long it takes to conduct required checks on the supporting information provided
- how long it takes to receive information from external agencies, particularly in relation to health, character, and national security requirements, and
- when the application is lodged, taking into account current global visa processing times.

Further information about Australia's visa processing times is available here.

Biometrics

Visa applicants may be required to provide biometrics at an Australian Biometrics Collection Centre if they:

- apply for a visa that is part of the Australian biometrics program, and
- from a country that is part of the biometrics program.

Further information on the biometrics program is available here.

Health and character

Depending on the visa applicant's individual circumstances and intended period of stay, they may be required to:

- undergo health examinations (see: Who needs health examinations and What health examinations you need), and/or
- provide police certificate/s (see: Character requirements for visas).

Visa applicants may be charged a fee by third party providers for medical examinations or to obtain police certificates. The Department of Home Affairs cannot waive these costs.

Visa applicants under 18 years of age

The Department of Home Affairs must be satisfied that all persons who have legal responsibility for the visa applicant, such as their parent/s, have provided consent for the visa to be granted. **This requirement cannot be waived.**

Form 1229 - Consent to grant an Australian visa to a child under the age of 18 years, must be submitted with the visa application as evidence of this consent. This should be accompanied by the child's birth certificate and identity documents of the parent/s that displays their signatures.

Minors who are travelling to Australia without a parent or guardian must also provide evidence that adequate welfare arrangements will be in place for the duration of their stay. This requires a written undertaking from a person who is 21 years or older, nominated by the visa applicant's parent(s)/guardian(s), who will be responsible for their care.

Form 1257 - Undertaking declaration, must be completed by the person who will be responsible for the visa applicant during their stay in Australia.

Translate documents

Applicants must submit English translations of all documents that are in other languages.

Translators in Australia must be accredited by the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters NAATI. The applicant should include the translator's National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) practitioner number.

If the translator is outside Australia, provide their full name, address, phone number and qualifications in the language they are translating from.

Existing visa holders

Participants intending to travel to Australia using an existing visa must ensure that the visa is valid for their intended period of stay and is appropriate for their role (for example, permits multiple entries and has work rights if required).

The Home Affairs' Visa Entitlement Verification Online system (VEVO) enables individuals to check their visa details and any applicable conditions.

It should be noted that if a new visa is granted, any existing visa will cease.

Australian Sanctions Office

Event organisers should note, the Australian Sanctions Office (ASO) guidance Guidance Note - Hosting conferences and events in Australia | DFAT.

This guidance outlines key obligations and considerations for organisations hosting events in Australia that involve participants from countries subject to Australian sanctions. It provides practical advice to assist organisers in ensuring compliance with Australia's sanctions framework when planning, inviting, and engaging with international participants.

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