Routes Asia 2010

International Event Coordinator Network (IECN)
Visa information

The information relating to visa options contained in this fact sheet is current as at 8 December 2009. Australian law may change after this time resulting in a change in visa options.

While this fact sheet provides an outline of the most common business visas, please note there are many visa options available for visiting Australia. The appropriate visa will depend, amongst other things, on the person's purpose for visiting.

All visitors to Australia must have a valid visa to travel to and enter Australia (other than New Zealand passport holders, who will normally be issued a Special Category visa on arrival, provided they meet health and character requirements; and permanent residents of Norfolk Island who may be granted a Permanent Resident of Norfolk Island visa on arrival).

Visa options

If you are planning to visit Australia for a business event such as a conference, meeting or seminar, you need to apply for a business visa. The passport which you hold determines whether you can apply online, or if you need to lodge a paper-based application. The following information will help you identify the right visa and application process applicable to you.

Online applications

eVisitor

Passport holders from eVisitor eligible countries are able to apply individually online for authorisation to travel to and enter Australia. For a business event, the most common visa for these passport holders is the eVisitor (Business stream) visa.

eVisitor eligible countries

Andorra *	Hungary	Poland
Austria *	Iceland *	Portugal *
Belgium *	Ireland *	Romania
Bulgaria	Italy *	Republic of San Marino *
Cyprus	Latvia	Slovak Republic
Czech Republic	Liechtenstein *	Slovenia
Denmark *	Lithuania	Spain *
Estonia	Luxembourg *	Sweden *
Finland *	Malta *	Switzerland *
France *	Monaco *	United Kingdom – British Citizen *
Germany *	The Netherlands *	Vatican city
Greece *	Norway *	

Further information can be found at http://www.immi.gov.au/visitors/tourist/evisitor/

Applications can be made at http://www.immi.gov.au/e_visa/evisitor.htm

eVisitor applications are free. A separate online application form is required for each family member who holds a passport from an EU eligible country and wishes to travel with you to Australia, including children under the age of 18 who are included on your passport.

* eligible passport holders also have the option of applying for an ETA through their travel agent, airline, specialist service provider or an Australian visa office outside Australia. Note, travel agencies may choose to impose a fee to arrange an ETA on your behalf.

Electronic Authority Travel (ETA)

Passport holders from ETA eligible countries are also able to apply for a visa online to travel to and enter Australia. For a business event, the most common visa for these passport holders is the ETA (Business Entrant) (subclass 977).

ETA eligible countries

Brunei
Canada
Hong Kong (SAR) *
Japan
Malaysia
San Marino
Singapore
South Korea
Taiwan **
United States of America

* A Hong Kong Document of Identity (HKDI) cannot be used to apply for an ETA. Residents of Hong Kong require a citizen passport to apply for this visa.

** Holders of Taiwanese passports can only be processed for an ETA if residing and applying in Taiwan. Applications can be lodged with an approved ETA travel agent in Taiwan, or Australian visa services office in Taipei.

Further information can be found at http://www.immi.gov.au/e_visa/eta.htm

Applications can be made at http://www.eta.immi.gov.au/

There is no visa application charge for this visa but a service fee of $AUD20 is charged for online applications and travel agencies may choose to impose a fee to arrange an ETA on your behalf.

A separate online application form is required for each family member who holds a passport from an ETA-eligible country and wishes to travel with you to Australia, including children under the age of 18 who are included on your passport.

Paper-based applications

All other passport holders need to submit a paper-based application for a **Business (Short Stay) visa (subclass 456)**. More information on this visa is available at www.immi.gov.au/skilled/business/456/.

To find the Australian visa office nearest to your current place of residence: see http://www.immi.gov.au/contacts/overseas/index.htm.

Things to consider before lodging an application

Health and character requirements

All visa applicants must be assessed against Australia's health and character requirements. These requirements are designed to protect the safety and security of the Australian community.

Health requirements

As part of the visa application process you may be required to undertake a medical examination, chest x-ray and/or other health checks.

The department will advise you of the applicable health checks (if any), based on your individual circumstances.

Information on which health checks may apply to you is available at www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/1163i.pdf.

Character requirements

As part of the visa application process, you must show that you are of good character to pass Australia's character test. Information on the character test is available at www.immi.gov.au/media/fact-sheets/79character.htm.

If you are unsure whether you can pass Australia's character test because of prior criminal convictions, you should lodge a paper-based application at the Australian visa office nearest to your current place of residence, at least four months prior to the event start date.

Contact information for Australian visa offices is available at www.immi.gov.au/contacts/overseas/index.htm.

Travel sanctions

For information on countries subject to travel sanctions, please see the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website at www.dfat.gov.au/un/unsc_sanctions/index.html. Nationals of these countries may not be permitted to travel to and enter Australia.

Invitation/registration to attend the event

Although this is a separate process to lodging your visa application, the department may take into account whether you are registered, or were invited, to attend the event, when assessing whether you meet the criteria for the grant of a visa.

Confirmation of registration, or a copy of your letter of invitation, should accompany paper-based visa applications.

Cut-off date for lodging paper based applications

All visitors should apply for a visa at least two months prior to the intended date of departure, and four months prior for people with character concerns.

Obligations of visa holders

On arrival at Australia's border you must identify yourself, present your travel documents, and complete an Incoming Passenger Card (IPC). The IPC requires visitors to declare their health status and any prior criminal convictions.

If you do not meet immigration clearance requirements, you may be refused entry to Australia.

More information on immigration clearance processes at Australia's borders is available at www.immi.gov.au/managing-australias-borders/border-security/air/airport.htm.

You must comply with your visa validity and visa conditions while in Australia. For paper-based applications, this information is available on your visa label. For online applications, it is available on the letter or email confirming the grant of your visa.

If you breach these conditions, your visa may be cancelled.

If your visa expires while you are still in Australia, you become an unlawful non-citizen. Unlawful non-citizens are liable to be detained and removed from Australia.

Need help?

For help with visas please contact the International Event Coordinator Network (IECN) on
+61 1300 550 684 (outside Australia international call charges apply), or complete an online enquiry form at www.immi.gov.au/contacts/forms/iecn/.

More information on the IECN is available at www.immi.gov.au/visitors/event-organisers-participants/.

General information on applying for visas is available at www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/1025i.pdf.

DIAC09/01130X