

Key visa requirements and costs of current skilled visas¹

Independent, State and Territory Nominated and Global Talent visas

	Skilled Independent visa (subclass 189)		Skilled Nominated visa (subclass 190)	Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 491)	Global Talent visa (subclass 858), formally Distinguished Talent visa
	Points tested stream	New Zealand stream			
Sponsorship/ Nomination required	No		By a State or Territory government agency	By a State or Territory government agency or an eligible relative	By an eligible individual or organisation with a national reputation in relation to area of talent
Skill assessment required	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Occupation on a Skilled Occupation List required	MLTSSL	No	MLTSSL or STSOL	MLTSSL, STSOL or ROL if nominated by a State or Territory government agency; or MLTSSL if sponsored by an eligible relative	No
Points test applied	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Age	Under 45	No requirement	Under 45	Under 45	Between 18 and 55 or be of exceptional benefit to the Australian community
English language requirement	Competent	No requirement	Competent	Competent	Functional or second VAC
Salary requirement	No	TSMIT for each of the four completed financial years before application	No	No	No, but applicants under the Global Talent Independent program should earn or have the potential to earn a salary at or above the FWHIT
Visa validity	Permanent			5 years	Permanent
VAC - primary applicant	\$4,045				\$4,110

¹ As of March 2021. This list illustrates key visa criteria and does not detail all requirements. All visa applicants must meet character, health, identity and security requirements as specified in the *Migration Act 1958*. It does not include legacy visas that have been closed to new applications.

Employer Sponsored visas

	Employer Nomination Scheme (subclass 186)			Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme visa (subclass 187)	Temporary Skill Shortage Visa (subclass 482)			Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 494)	
	Direct Entry stream	Temporary Residence Transition stream	Labour Agreement stream	Temporary Residence Transition stream	Short-term stream	Medium-term stream	Labour Agreement stream	Employer Sponsored stream	Labour Agreement stream
Sponsorship/ Nomination required	By an employer								
Skill assessment required	Yes unless exempted	May be required						Yes unless exempted	May be required
Occupation on a Skilled Occupation List required	MLTSSL	MLTSSL	As per the agreement	MLTSSL or ROL	STSOL	MLTSSL or ROL	As per the agreement	MLTSSL or ROL	As per the agreement
Labour Market Testing required	Yes unless exempted								
Age	Under 45 unless exempted				No requirement			Under 45 unless exempted	
English language requirement	Competent		As per the agreement	Competent unless exempted	The TSS specific English language proficiency requirement unless exempted		As per the agreement	Competent	As per the agreement
Relevant work experience requirement	3 years unless exempted	3 out of the last 4 years for TSS visa holders or 2 out of the last 3 years for 457 visa holders	3 years or as per the agreement	3 out of the last 4 years for TSS visa holders or 2 out of the last 3 years for 457 visa holders	2 years (with occupation specific flexibility)		2 years or as per the agreement	3 years relevant work experience	
Salary requirement	Annual market salary rate, and not lower than TSMIT								
Visa validity	Permanent				Up to 2, 4 or 5 years	Up to 4 or 5 years		5 years	
Sponsorship/Nomination application fees	\$540	\$540 or \$0 if the position is in regional Australia		\$0	\$420 to be a sponsor and \$330 to nominate		\$330 to nominate	\$420 to be a sponsor	\$0
SAF levy	annual turnover <\$10M: \$3,000; annual turnover ≥\$10M: \$5,000				annual turnover <\$10M: \$1,200 per year; annual turnover ≥\$10M: \$1,800 per year			annual turnover <\$10M: \$3,000; annual turnover ≥\$10M: \$5,000	
VAC - primary applicant	\$4,045				\$1,265	\$2,645		\$4,045	

Business Innovation and Investment Program (BIIP) visas²

	Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) visa (subclass 188)					Business Talent (Permanent) visa (subclass 132)	
	Investor stream	Significant Investor stream	Premium Investor stream	Business Innovation Stream	Entrepreneur stream	Significant Business History stream	Venture Capital stream
Sponsorship/ Nomination required	By a State or Territory government agency	By a State or Territory government agency or Austrade	By Austrade	By a State or Territory government agency			
Points test applied	Yes	No		Yes	No		
Age	Under 55 unless waived	No requirement		Under 55 unless waived			No requirement
English language requirement	Functional or second VAC				Competent	Functional or second VAC	
Minimum investment	\$1.5 million	\$5 million	\$15 million	Not applicable			
Assets requirement	\$2.25 million	Not applicable		\$800,000	Not applicable	\$1.5 million	Not applicable
Business turnover	Not applicable			\$500,000 annually	Not applicable	\$3 million annually	Not applicable
Funding requirement	Not applicable				\$200,000	Not applicable	\$1 million
Visa validity	4 years and 3 months	4 years and 3 months which can be extended	4 years and 3 months	4 years and 3 months which can be extended	4 years and 3 months	Permanent	
VAC - primary applicant	\$5,375	\$7,880	\$9,455	\$5,375	\$4,045	\$7,855	\$7,855

² On 17 December 2020, the Government announced key changes to the BIIP for implementation in July 2021. In broad terms and subject to legislative change process, the Premium Investor, Significant Business History and Venture Capital streams will be closed to new applications.

Permanent visas that are part of a provisional to permanent visa pathway

	Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) visa (subclass 888)					Skilled Regional visa (subclass 887)
	Investor stream	Significant Investor stream	Premium Investor stream	Business Innovation Stream	Entrepreneur stream	
Sponsorship/ Nomination required	By a State or Territory government agency	By a State or Territory government agency or Austrade	By Austrade	By a State or Territory government agency		Not required
Eligible applicants	Holders of a provisional visa in the same stream			Holders of a provisional visa in the same stream, a Special Category visa (subclass 444) or a subclass 457 visa in some cases	Holders of a provisional visa in the same stream	Holders of a subclass 489, 495, 496, 475 or 487 visa
Residence requirement	At least 2 years in the 4 years before application	40 days a year on average for primary visa holders <u>OR</u> 180 days a year on average for partner visa holders, while holding the provisional visa	No requirement	At least 1 year in the 2 years before application	At least 2 years in the 4 years before application	At least 2 years in regional Australia
Visa specific requirements for permanent residence	Applicants must have held the required investment for at least 4 years		Applicants must have held the required investment for at least 12 months	Applicants must have owned one or more Australian businesses for at least 2 years that meet the business turnover, assets and employees requirements	Applicants must have demonstrated overall a successful record of undertaking entrepreneurial activities in Australia	Applicants must have worked full-time for at least 12 months in a regional area
Visa validity	Permanent					
VAC - primary applicant	\$2,590					\$415

Note:

English language requirements aim to protect the integrity of Australia's visa programs, and ensure visa holders are able to positively contribute to and fully participate in the Australian workplace and the community. For temporary and permanent skilled visa holders, these requirements are set at levels that reflect the expectation that they are appropriately skilled, able to understand their workplace rights and health and safety issues, and equipped to transfer their skills to the Australian workforce. More broadly, English language proficiency helps migrants to learn about Australia's society and values through communication and engagement with others. It also facilitates labour market participation and civic engagement.

Glossary

Evidence of Competent English	The applicant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● holds a valid passport issued by the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland, or ● has achieved at least 6 in each of the four IELTS components or equivalent score in another English language test accepted by the Department.
Evidence of Functional English	The applicant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● holds a valid passport issued by the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland, or ● has been assessed as having functional English by a listed Australian Adult Migrant English Program service provider; or ● has completed study where all instruction was in English for the required duration (varies depending on the type of study), or ● has achieved an average score of at least 4.5 based on the four IELTS components or equivalent score in another English language test accepted by the Department.
FWHIT	Fair Work High Income Threshold, currently \$153,600
MLTSSL	Medium and Long-term Strategic Skills List
ROL	Regional Occupation List
SAF levy	Skilling Australians Fund levy
STSOL	Short-term Skilled Occupation List
TSMIT	Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold, currently \$53,900
VAC	Visa Application Charge