



Department for
International Trade

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16 December 2021

Dear Minister Tehan,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 16 December 2021, which reads as follows:

“In connection with the signing of the Free Trade Agreement between Australia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (“the Agreement”), I have the honour to confirm the following mutual understandings reached between the Government of Australia (“Australia”) and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (“United Kingdom”) (“the Participants”) concerning:

- (a) the Participants’ respective Working Holiday Maker and Youth Mobility schemes;¹*
- (b) mobility associated with work in agriculture and agribusiness; and*
- (c) Innovation and Early Careers Skills Exchange.*

Understandings on Operation of the Working Holiday Maker and Youth Mobility Schemes

- 1. The Participants will permit citizens aged 18 to 35 (inclusive) at the time of application to participate in their respective Working Holiday Maker and Youth Mobility schemes.*

¹ This understanding should be read in conjunction with the ‘Memorandum of understanding on a working holiday scheme between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland’ signed on 10 February 2005.

2. *The Participants will allow eligible citizens to remain in Australia or the United Kingdom for a maximum period of three years in accordance with the Participants' Working Holiday Maker or Youth Mobility Scheme.*
3. *The Participants will not require eligible citizens to undertake specified work during their stay in Australia or the United Kingdom.*
4. *The Participants will arrange for their respective commitments in paragraphs 1 to 3 to be implemented within two years of entry into force of the Agreement and jointly decide on a date for all of the commitments in paragraphs 1 to 3 to come into effect.*
5. *Working Holiday Maker or Youth Mobility Scheme visa holders may apply for other visa routes in-country where permitted by the Participants' domestic immigration systems.*

Understandings on Support for Agriculture and Agribusiness

6. *The Participants will ensure that they support the growth of their agriculture and agribusiness sectors by providing opportunities for the mobility of those involved in agriculture-related work between Australia and the United Kingdom.*
7. *The Participants will continue to offer visa pathways which facilitate mobility of workers with relevant skills between Australia and the United Kingdom to help address skills needs in agriculture, and to promote agricultural and related industries best practice.*
8. *The Participants will set out in a Joint Declaration the visa pathways within their respective immigration systems that facilitate the mobility of those involved in agricultural work.*

Understandings on Innovation and Early Careers Skills Exchange

9. *The Participants acknowledge that innovation plays an important part in their economies, including by stimulating competitiveness, increasing productivity, encouraging investment and promoting international trade.*
10. *The Participants recognise that skilled people drive this innovation in their economies, and that the movement of skilled professionals between their territories facilitates a mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and skills.*
11. *The Participants recognise the importance of collaboration for those involved in innovation and the benefits international experience and skills exchange can bring to those early in their careers.*
12. *Reflecting on the Participants' shared history and friendship, the Participants acknowledge their strong cultural ties and seek to build on these connections through collaboration to exchange knowledge and deepen understanding.*
13. *Australia will pilot a scheme enabling workplace exchanges which facilitate early career mobility and mobility for those involved in innovation (Innovation and Early Careers Skills Exchange Pilot).*

14. *Visas will be available in two categories:²*

- (a) *citizens aged between 21 and 45 years at the time of application who have tertiary qualifications and have worked for a minimum of three months in the sending organisation, including graduate trainees, will be eligible to undertake a short-term placement, secondment or intra-corporate transfer for up to one year in Australia in a position relevant to their field of work in the sending organisation; and*
- (b) *highly experienced and skilled citizens in all sectors (including specialists seeking intra-corporate transfer) with a demonstrated contribution to innovation will be eligible to undertake opportunities for up to three years in Australia. Eligibility criteria for participation will include demonstrated contributions in areas such as research and development; renewable energy; artificial intelligence; medical technology; FinTech; AgriTech; audio-visual and cultural industries; and other areas mutually identified through the Strategic Innovation Dialogue established in Chapter 20 (Innovation) of the Agreement.*

15. *Applicants will need a letter of offer or a contract for employment and supporting documentation to demonstrate that they have adequate financial means to support themselves for the duration of their stay.*

16. *Australia will provide qualifying applicants with letters of support to lodge with visa applications, approval of which will be subject to meeting other immigration formalities.*

17. *Total visas available under the Innovation and Early Careers Skills Exchange Pilot will be capped at 1000 in the first year, rising by 1000 for the second year.*

18. *Australia will implement the Innovation and Early Careers Skills Exchange Pilot within one year of entry-into-force of the Agreement.*

Review

19. *In line with each Participant's respective immigration systems, the Participants will conduct a review of mobility arrangements, with the aim of further enhancing the ability for citizens to live, work and travel in each other's country on a mutually advantageous basis. The review will consider:*

- (a) *progress in achieving the commitments on the Operation of Working Holiday Maker and Youth Mobility Schemes;*
- (b) *Australia's offer to commence discussions with the UK on participation by UK citizens in the Australian Agriculture Visa; and*
- (c) *implementation of the understandings on Innovation and Early Career Skills Exchange, which may include:*
 - (i) *exploring dedicated visa requirements, in line with the Participants' respective systems, to further enable workplace exchanges which*

² Visas granted under this pilot exchange scheme are limited to those citizens meeting the requirements of the scheme and not their partners or dependants, unless otherwise decided by Australia.

facilitate early career mobility and mobility for those involved in innovation across industry, culture and the arts; and

(ii) *the results of the Innovation and Early Careers Skills Exchange Pilot to provide recommendations on potential future implementation.*

20. *The Participants will commence the review two years after entry into force of the Agreement and conclude the review no later than three years after entry into force of the Agreement.*

General Understandings

21. *The Participants will implement these understandings in a manner which provides balanced opportunities for participation by citizens of the Participants' countries, including taking into account opportunities in the Participants' wider immigration systems.*

22. *These understandings may be:*

(a) *amended at any time by the mutual written consent of the Participants;*

(b) *temporarily suspended by either Participant for reasons of public policy; or*

(c) *terminated by one of the Participants giving three months' written notice to the other. In case of termination, the Participants will consult to determine how any outstanding matters should be dealt with.*

I have the further honour of proposing that this letter, and your letter in reply confirming these mutual understandings, constitute a Memorandum of Understanding between Australia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. I look forward to your letter in reply confirming that your Government shares this understanding.

I have the further honour to confirm that my Government shares this understanding.

Yours sincerely,



THE RT HON ANNE-MARIE TREVELYAN MP
Secretary of State for International Trade
& President of the Board of Trade