



# Visa options for business events such as conferences, meetings or seminars

## Visa information

The information relating to visa options contained in this fact sheet is current as at 16 February 2011. 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 granted 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 *	France *	Lithuania	Republic of San Marino *
Austria *	Germany *	Luxembourg *	Slovak Republic
Belgium *	Greece *	Malta *	Slovenia
Bulgaria	Hungary	Monaco *	Spain *
Cyprus	Iceland *	The Netherlands *	Sweden *
Czech Republic	Ireland *	Norway *	Switzerland *
Denmark *	Italy *	Poland	United Kingdom – British Citizen *
Estonia	Latvia	Portugal *	Vatican city
Finland *	Liechtenstein *	Romania	

\* Eligible passport holders also have the option of applying for an Electronic Travel Authority (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.

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](http://www.immi.gov.au/e_visa/evisitor.htm)

A separate online eVisitor (Tourist stream) application 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. Applications for eVisitor visas are free.

### **Electronic Travel Authority (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	Singapore
Canada	South Korea
Hong Kong (SAR) *	Taiwan **
Japan	United States of America
Malaysia	

\* 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](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.

Each family member who holds a passport from an ETA eligible country and wishes to travel with you to Australia must complete a separate online application form for the ETA (Visitor) (Subclass 976). This includes children under the age of 18 who are included on your passport.

### **Business (Short Stay) visa (Subclass 456) — paper-based applications**

All other passport holders need to submit a paper-based application for a Business (Short Stay) visa (Subclass 456).

- For Form 456 Application for a Business (Short Stay) visa see <http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/456.pdf>
- To obtain the application documentation checklist for Form 456 Application for a Business (Short Stay) visa see <http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/business/pdf/456-checklist.pdf>
- To lodge your application at the nearest Australian visa office to your current place of residence see <http://www.immi.gov.au/contacts/overseas/index.htm>

More information on this visa is available at [www.immi.gov.au/skilled/business/456/](http://www.immi.gov.au/skilled/business/456/)

This visa application can also include family members wishing to travel with you to Australia (eg spouse and unmarried dependent children).

# 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.immi.gov.au/contacts/overseas/index.htm)

### Travel sanctions

Nationals of countries subject to travel sanctions may not be permitted to travel to and enter Australia. 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](http://www.dfat.gov.au/un/unsc_sanctions/index.html)

### Biometrics Program

From December 2010, Biometrics will need to be collected at an Australian Visa Application Centre for visitors lodging a paper-based visa application from the countries listed at the department's website at <http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/biometrics/offshore/countries.htm>

### 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 or health 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](http://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?

More information on the IECN is available at [www.immi.gov.au/visitors/event-organisers-participants/](http://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](http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/pdf/1025i.pdf)