

Factsheet

Subclass 485 Temporary Graduate Visa information for international students



This factsheet is for international students who have recently finished their studies in Australia and are looking for a visa which would allow them to extend their stay in Australia temporarily while pursuing further study or obtaining local work experience without work-hour restrictions.

It contains eligibility information for all streams under the current Temporary Graduate visa program and include relevant changes to immigration law and policies due to COVID-19 as at 15 January 2022.

What can I do with a Subclass 485 visa?

A Subclass 485 Temporary Graduate visa (485 visa) enables you (primary applicant), your partner and dependent children (dependent applicants) to stay, study and work in Australia for the duration of your 485 visa.

Your approved length of stay will be based on a number of factors, such as the time you were first granted a student visa (either as a primary or dependent applicant), your qualification, your location of study, and your passport.

What are the visa requirements?

There are currently four streams under the 485 visa program:

1. Post-Study Work stream,
2. Graduate Work stream,
3. Second-Study Work stream, and
4. COVID19 Replacement stream.

You will need to meet all common requirements and specific requirements for one of the four streams as set out below.

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Common requirements for applicants in all four streams

The primary applicant must:

- ✓ hold, or have held, a qualifying visa (normally a student visa)
- ✓ be under 50 years of age at the time of application, and
- ✓ meet eligibility requirements for one of the four visa streams.

All applicants, including the primary applicant and their dependent applicants, must also:

- ✓ meet character and health requirements for the visa;
- ✓ provide evidence of adequate health insurance during your stay in Australia;
- ✓ not have had a visa cancelled or a previous application refused while you were in Australia;
- ✓ have no unpaid debt to the Australian Government, or have arranged to pay it back; and
- ✓ have read, or had explained to you, the [Life in Australia booklet](https://bit.ly/3u2uZ47) (<https://bit.ly/3u2uZ47>) and sign an [Australian Value Statement](https://bit.ly/3H5xZjV) (<https://bit.ly/3H5xZjV>) that confirms you will respect the Australian way of life and obey Australian laws, if you are 18 years of age or older.

**Did you know?**

*Domestic or family violence is not acceptable under any circumstances and is a crime in Australia. It does not matter whether or not domestic or family violence is widely accepted in your home country. If you have ever been subject to a domestic or family violence order, or have been convicted of a domestic or family violence offence, you may fail the character test for your visa. This might result in a refusal of your visa application or cancellation of your current visa. Please contact **Redfern Legal Centre's International Student Legal Service NSW** (www.contact/rlc) or seek professional legal advice if you are not sure whether and how a domestic or family violence record will affect your visa or future applications.*

1. Post-Study Work stream

A 485 visa Post-Study Work stream visa allows a recent graduate with a degree from an Australian institution to stay, study or work in Australia for two to four years, depending on your qualification.

**Did you know?**

If you hold a Hong Kong or British National Overseas passport, you may stay for five years regardless of your qualification. You will also have a pathway to permanent residency at the end of that period.

You may be eligible for a 485 visa under this stream if:

- ✓ you applied for, and were granted, your **first student visa on or after 5 November 2011** (including holding a dependent visa as a child on your parent's student visa);
- ✓ you have not been granted a subclass 485 or 476 visa as a primary visa holder;
- ✓ in the **6 months** immediately prior to your 485 visa application, you have held a student visa and completed a **degree** in

a [CRICOS-registered course](#)

(<https://bit.ly/3Azw9FF>), regardless of your field of study;

**Did you know?**

*From **1 December 2021**, the stay period on 485 visa for Masters by Coursework graduates have been increased permanently to 3 years, to match the stay period for Masters by Research graduates.*

- ✓ in the **6 months** immediately prior to your 485 visa application, you have met the [Australian Study Requirement](#) (<https://bit.ly/3HaDKNh>) such as completing your course as a result of at least 92 weeks' study, and being physically in Australia in not less than 16 calendar months when completing the course unless your study was impacted by COVID-19 travel restrictions.

**Did you know?**

Student visa holders [affected by COVID-19 travel restrictions](#) (<https://bit.ly/3rRqOft>) can count online study towards the Australian Study Requirement, provided that your education provider also completes a [Form 1545 - COVID-19 Impacted Students](#) (<https://bit.ly/3qXnJED>) in support of your application.

- ✓ if you are in Australia, you have a substantive visa, or a Bridging Visa A or B granted on the basis of a valid visa application;

**Did you know?**

Prior to COVID-19, a 485 visa primary applicant must be onshore in Australia when they apply for the visa and when the visa is granted. During the COVID-19 concession period, eligible 485 visa primary applicants can make their visa application outside Australia and be granted the visa while they are outside Australia.

- ✓ you hold a valid passport from the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland, or can provide evidence obtained in the last three years immediately before your application demonstrating you have the required English level for this visa. The acceptable evidence and required English level are set out in the table below.

Test	Score
International English Language Testing System (IELTS)	Overall 6+, with a minimum score of 5 in each part.
Test of English as a Foreign Language internet-based Test (TOEFL iBT)	Total score of 64+, with a minimum score of 4 for listening and reading, 14 for writing and speaking.
Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic)	Overall 50+. with a minimum score of 36 in each part.
Occupational English Test (OET)	At least B for each part
Cambridge C1 Advanced test	Overall 169+, with a minimum score of 154+ in each component.

- ✓ you can provide evidence you have applied for an Australian Federal Police check when you apply.

The visa application charge for a 485 Post-Study Work visa primary applicant is AUD\$1,680.00. There is also a charge for each of the dependent visa applicants. The majority of applications will be processed within 9 to 11 months, according to the Department of Home Affairs' published processing time as at 15 January 2022.

2. Graduate Work stream

A 485 visa in the Graduate Work stream allows you and your dependent applicants to stay, study or work in Australia usually for 18 months to 24 months, depending on whether COVID-19 concession applies to you.



Did you know?

As a special concession during the COVID-19 pandemic, the requirement for graduates to nominate an occupation from the skills occupation list and obtain a skill assessment will be temporarily removed from 1 July 2022. The concession will continue to be available for applicants in this stream until further notice by the Australian Government.



Did you know?

If you hold a Hong Kong or British National Overseas passport, you may stay for five years regardless of your qualification. You will also have a pathway to permanent residency at the end of that period.

You may be eligible for a 485 visa in this stream if:

- ✓ in the 6 months immediately prior to your 485 visa application, you have held a student visa, completed one or more courses which result in a degree, diploma or trade qualification relevant to an occupation on the [skilled occupation list](https://bit.ly/3s0gMSA) (<https://bit.ly/3s0gMSA>), and applied for a skill assessment in your nominated occupation on the skilled occupation list;



Did you know?

As a special concession during the COVID-19 pandemic, the requirement for graduates to nominate an occupation from the skills occupation list and obtain a skill assessment will be temporarily removed from **1 July 2022**. The concession will continue to be available for applicants in this stream until further notice by the Australian Government.

- ✓ in the 6 months immediately prior to your 485 visa application, you have met the Australian Study Requirement, such as completing one or more courses as a result of at least 92 weeks' study; and

being physically in Australia in not less than 16 calendar months when completing the course unless your study was impacted by COVID-19 travel restrictions.



Did you know?

Student visa holders affected by COVID-19 travel restrictions can count online study towards the [Australian Study Requirement \(https://bit.ly/3HaDKNh\)](https://bit.ly/3HaDKNh), provided that your education provider also completes a [Form 1545 - COVID-19 Impacted Students \(https://bit.ly/3qXnJED\)](https://bit.ly/3qXnJED) in support of your application.

- ✓ you hold a valid passport from the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada, New Zealand or the Republic of Ireland, or can provide evidence **obtained in the last three years immediately before your application** demonstrating you have the required English level for this visa. (The acceptable evidence and required English level are set out in the table on the previous page of this factsheet.)
- ✓ you can provide evidence you have applied for an Australian Federal Police check when you apply.

The visa application charge for a 485 Graduate Work visa is AUD\$1,680.00. There is also a charge for each of the dependent visa applicants. The majority of applications will be processed within 10 to 12 months, according to the Department of Home Affairs' published processing time as at 15 January 2022.

3. Second-Study Work stream

This visa allows a 485 visa holder in the Post-Study Work stream to extend their stay in Australia for another one to two years if they have lived, studied, and worked in a designated regional area.

You may be eligible for a 485 visa under this stream if:

- ✓ you currently hold a 485 visa in the Post-Study Work stream and are physically in Australia at the time of application;



Did you know?

If you intend to make a combined application, both you and your dependent visa applicants must be onshore in Australia at the time of application and when the visa is granted.

Please note during the COVID-19 concession period, you and your dependent visa applicants must still be in Australia at the time of visa application. But you or your dependent visa applicants can be outside Australia when the visa is granted.

Your partner and dependent children can make a separate and subsequent application after your 485 visa is granted. In that case, they may make their applications either in or outside of Australia.

- ✓ you have not been granted, as a primary applicant, a subclass 485 visa in the Graduate Work stream, a second 485 visa in the Post-Study Work stream, or 476 visa;
- ✓ you studied on a campus in an eligible [designated regional area \(https://bit.ly/3IXkmnF\)](https://bit.ly/3IXkmnF) which resulted in the qualification that led to the grant of your current 485 visa in the Post-Study Work stream;
- ✓ have lived, studied and/or worked in an eligible designated regional area for at least two years before applying for a visa under this stream;
- ✓ you are not required to provide updated English ability evidence, Australian Federal Police report or other character documents unless specifically required by the Department of Home Affairs when it considers your application.

The visa application charge for a 485 Second-
Study Work visa primary applicant is
AUD\$660.00. There is also a charge for each of
the dependent visa applicants. Processing times
for this visa are not available as at 15 January
2022.

4. COVID-19 Replacement stream

A 485 COVID19 Replacement visa allows a
current or previous 485 visa holder (in any
streams) who was not able to stay in Australia
during the validity of their visa due to COVID-19
to come back and stay in Australia for a period
equivalent to what was granted in their initial 485
visa.

You may be eligible for this visa if:

- ✓ you currently hold, or previously held, a
485 visa, and your visa expired on or after
1 February 2020;
- ✓ you have been outside Australia at any
time between 1 February 2020 and 15
December 2021.



Did you know?

*You can include your dependent visa
applicants when apply under this stream
even if the dependent visa applicants were
not included in your original 485 visa
application.*

This visa will be open for application from 1 July
2022. Further requirements for this visa will be
released by the Department of Home Affairs in
due course.

The visa application charge for a 485 COVID19
Replacement visa primary applicant is
AUD\$1,680.00. There is also a charge for each of
the dependent visa applicants. Processing times
for this visa are not available as at 15 January
2022.

Further help

For tips about other legal issues affecting
international students you can also **My Legal
Mate**, a free multilanguage information resource
created by Redfern Legal Centre (RLC). Eligible
NSW students can apply for free access to My
Legal Mate here: <https://bit.ly/rlcm1m>

In addition, we have created RLC's *Welcome Back*
guide, which includes key information on issues
like employment, tenancy, and healthcare, and
advice on how to access banking services and an
Australian tax file number. It also includes tips on
getting around by public transport. Access RLC's
Welcome Back guide here: <https://bit.ly/3fMoBFX>

For further assistance with your visa you may
need to see an immigration lawyer or a registered
migration agent. You can contact RLC's
International Student Legal Service NSW for free
legal help and referrals.

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*This factsheet is not a substitute for legal advice or
migration advice. Australian immigration law and
policy are subject to constant change. This factsheet
may not reflect all of the most recent changes or
developments. If you have a problem and require
advice or referrals, please contact RLC's International
Student Legal Service NSW.*