

# Australia – Working/Studying /Visas

## General Country Information – Australia

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Australia with its natural beauty, spacious and varied landscape, high standard of living, excellent health and education systems, temperate climate, political and economic stability, and a general quality of life envied by many around the world makes it an ideal place to live, work or visit.

### General country information websites:

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/aib/overview.html>

<http://www.economist.com/topics/australia>

[www.economywatch.com](http://www.economywatch.com)

- **Area:** 7,741,220 sq km Australia is the sixth largest country in the world, with a coastline of 25,760km
- **Population:** 25,048,732 (May 2019 est.) with a population growth rate of 1.62 (2018 est.) and about 90.01% of total population (2019) living in the urban areas. Most of the population is concentrated along the eastern seaboard and the south-eastern corner of the continent.
- **Ethnic Groups:** White 76.8%, Asian 17.7%, Aboriginal and other 5.4%
- **Economy:** Australia has one of the strongest economies in the world and has largely avoided severe contraction that has faced the global economy in recent years. Although challenged by global events, the introduction of a strong fiscal policy along with continued demand for commodities, especially from China - helped the Australian economy rebound after just one quarter of negative growth. The economy is estimated to have grown by 2.5% in 2019. Unemployment peaked at 5.0% in 2019. Major sectors of occupation include Service (70.00% - 2018 est.); Industry (27.0%) Agriculture (3%) Australia's extensive reserves of coal, iron ore, copper, gold, natural gas, uranium, and renewable energy sources also attract high levels of foreign investment. Australia also has a large services sector and is a significant exporter of natural resources, energy, and food. Australia is the only major Western nation to have largely avoided a recession in the worldwide slump. Although challenged by global events, the country's strong banking sector, monetary and fiscal stimulus, investment from China and sharp buoyant export demand acted as protective factors [www.wabusinessnews.com.au](http://www.wabusinessnews.com.au) [www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au)
- **Time Differences:** There are three different time zones in Australia, Western Standard Time which is 8 hours ahead of Irish time, Central Standard Time 9 hours ahead and Standard Time 10 hours ahead.
- **Language:** Although English is the official language of Australia, more than 2.4 million of the country's population speak another language at home.
- **Religion:** While Australia is predominantly a Christian country, all religions are represented and respected in this multicultural society.
- **History:** Although Australia was not officially settled by European explorers until 1788, evidence suggests the land had already been inhabited by Aboriginal people for more than 60,000 years. It is believed Australian Aboriginals are the world's oldest civilisation.
- **Exchange Rate:** A rough guide would be 1 euro to 1.62 Australian Dollars (May 2019)
- **Australia - Ireland Health Agreement:** Australia has an excellent health care system accessible to all who reside in the country and the Health Agreement covers Irish residents visiting Australia (including those on the 12 month working holiday visa). However, it is strongly recommended that you consider private health care cover and travel insurance for your stay. Irish residents on student visas are not covered by the Agreement. They must be insured with the government scheme for foreign students.

- **Drivers Licence:** If you have a visa and a current driver's licence from another country, in English, you are allowed to drive for your first 3 months after arrival. After 3 months, you will need to apply for the appropriate driver's licence. This usually requires you to pass a knowledge test, a practical driving test and an eyesight test. Drivers' licences are issued by state and territory governments.
- **Embassy of Ireland,** 20 Arkana Street, Yarralumla, A.C.T. 2600, Canberra, Tel: +61 2 6214 0000, Fax: +612 6273 3741, [irishemb@cyberone.com.au](mailto:irishemb@cyberone.com.au).

## Australia – Working

Despite the thousands of kilometres that separate Australia from Ireland Australia's relationship with Ireland is underpinned by strong family, social and cultural ties. Up to 30% of Australians claim some degree of Irish ancestry There are 93,180 Irish-born residents living in Australia in 2014 this combined with Australia's economic performance over the last decade makes it a major destination for Irish graduates seeking temporary employment.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Unemployment in Australia is 5.1% (April 2019) [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au). Although there is still a demand for skilled labour in Australia, higher levels of education and current global economic crisis have meant that there is greater competition for available positions.

Expansion is expected to occur in:

- financial services
  - telecommunications
  - biotechnology - particularly in the field of diagnosis, human therapeutics and agricultural biotechnology
  - ICT and e-commerce – this is a fast growing industry
  - engineering & mining - particularly in areas of nanotechnology and precision engineering, water management, renewable energy resources, and mining equipment
  - healthcare – a broad range of vacancies
  - retail, recreation & tourism
  - construction, current prospects for those engaged in architecture, planning and construction are reasonable but not extensive
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- The majority of Irish students or graduates initially visit Australia on a student or working holiday visa so the first port of call is the Australian Embassy [www.ireland.embassy.gov.au](http://www.ireland.embassy.gov.au). Working holiday makers are well-received by Australian employers.
  - Job applicants may be nominated for a visa by an approved Australian employer. If you do not have a job offer / have not been nominated for a visa by an approved Australian employer, you can access opportunities through the General Skilled Migration Program via 'SkillSelect – this points-based programme is the way Australia currently manages its skills migration. <https://www.australianskilledmigration.com.au/general-skilled-migration/>
  - To be eligible to apply for the above visas, applicants must first lodge an Expression of Interest (EOI) and be invited to apply for skilled migration.
  - Your occupation must be listed on the **Skilled Occupation List**
  - To be eligible you must be younger than 50 years of age, have an occupation that is on the relevant skilled occupation list, have a suitable skills assessment for that occupation, meet English Requirements and score at least 60 on the points test (higher the points scored the better). Successful applicants will be invited to apply for a visa. There are openings for professionals in areas such as engineering, health, services, and a number of trades. There's always a demand for nurses and there's a specific programme called Doctor Connect, operated by Australia's department of health and ageing, to recruit doctors who have been trained overseas.
  - Useful websites include;
  - Career / Labour Market Information – [www.joboutlook.gov.au](http://www.joboutlook.gov.au)
  - Skills Shortage List - <https://www.jobs.gov.au/skillshortages>

- Skilled Occupation Lists - <https://www.seekvisa.com.au/skilled-occupation-list-australia-2019/>

## **VISA APPLICATIONS**

- Visa applications and initial enquiries may also be made through the local service provider/agent. Note: you do not need to apply through a migration agent to get a visa as you can apply directly to [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au). Make sure agents you use are registered with [www.mara.gov.au](http://www.mara.gov.au).

## **TEMPORARY WORK**

- Some jobs are closely tied to particular courses of study. Some students tutor school children or get jobs on campus.
- Working holiday makers need a working holiday visa for a year and the year must be broken up by periods of holiday or travel. There is also the option of taking advantage of a second visa if you can prove you have worked for a minimum of three months as a seasonal worker e.g. fruit picker. The main areas of employment for working holiday makers are hospitality and catering, sales retail, administration, labouring and fruit picking. Fruit picking is traditionally a boom area for casual employment and a good way for overseas workers to see a side of life outside the cities.
- For work with employers on a less casual basis it is advisable to identify suitable employers and contact them directly.
- It may be possible for an Irish graduate working for an international company to work at the Australian 'branch' for some period of time. Have a look at Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry [www.acci.asn.au](http://www.acci.asn.au), The Yellow pages [www.yellowpages.com.au](http://www.yellowpages.com.au), Dun & Bradstreet, Australia [www.dnb.com.au](http://www.dnb.com.au)
- To find Irish companies with interests in Australia or Australian companies with interests in Ireland see Enterprise Ireland [www.enterprise-ireland.com](http://www.enterprise-ireland.com) and the Irish Australian Chamber of Commerce at <https://www.australianchamber.ie/>
- Participating in an international internship will give you the option of combining your particular area of study with practical, career-related experience. To apply for internships in Australia you can either contact companies directly or avail of the various organisations who can fully or part arrange placements within companies  
BUNAC [www.bunac.org](http://www.bunac.org)  
Intern Abroad <http://www.internships.com.au/>  
Internship Australia <http://www.internships.com.au/>  
Intern options Australia <http://www.internoptions.co.uk/>  
Post-Grad Work Experience Abroad with Enterprise Ireland [www.enterprise-ireland.com](http://www.enterprise-ireland.com)
- Technical and commercial students can apply to the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE) for internships in those areas [www.iaeste.org](http://www.iaeste.org) ([iaeste@leargas.ie](mailto:iaeste@leargas.ie))

- Jobsearch. National vacancy database, searchable by region, with section on graduate jobs.
- SEEK Australia's no. 1 jobs, employment, careers and recruitment site.
- Positions VACANT - an online recruitment service for job seekers throughout Australia.
- The Recruitment & Consulting Services Association Ltd. (RCSA) - professional body for the employment services industry - searchable list of accredited recruitment companies.
- <https://backpackersworld.com/> backpacker agency site
- <http://www.jobaroo.com/> job opportunities for students, graduates and travellers in Australia across industries such as medical/nursing, engineering, architecture, teaching, town planning, interior design, agriculture, farm work and fruit picking, and more. The site also has useful information about what it is like to work in these different industries in Australia and other useful information.
- AA Pathways the Australian Apprenticeships Training Information service lets you search for apprenticeship and training packages
- SimplyHired SimplyHired helps millions of people find great jobs and love what they do every day.
- CareerJet Employment search engine.
- Australian Internships. Tailored internship programmes.

## **HOW TO FIND A JOB**

- While most graduates do not start their job search until they have arrived in Australia it is advisable to do some preparation before leaving. A good starting point is the Prospects website (<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/working-abroad/work-in-australia>)
- Newspapers are also a helpful starting-point in Australian job-hunts. The Saturday editions often contain large amounts of vacancies. For example: The Age (Melbourne) [www.theage.com.au](http://www.theage.com.au); The Courier-Mail (Queensland) [www.couriermail.com.au](http://www.couriermail.com.au) The Advertiser (Adelaide) [www.adelaidenow.com.au](http://www.adelaidenow.com.au) Sydney Morning Herald. (New South Wales) [www.smh.com.au](http://www.smh.com.au). For other newspapers online consult Australian Newspapers Online [www.nla.gov.au/npapers/](http://www.nla.gov.au/npapers/) from the National Library of Australia.
- Take a look at the careers office in the local universities and colleges as they can have lists of jobs specifically aimed at graduates. [www.australian-universities.com](http://www.australian-universities.com)
- If you know of a particular company or organisation you would like to work for, you can contact that employer directly.
- Social networking has become an increasingly common and important part of seeking work. Many jobs are found through using contacts, friends and relatives as many employers find new workers through people they already know. Websites such as Facebook [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) , Twitter [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) and LinkedIn [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com) have increased in popularity for both graduates and employers
- Graduate Careers Fairs can be useful way of finding work and may also provide an opportunity to find out about graduate schemes being offered by companies .Many fairs offer other facilities such as CV workshops, and a chance to network The following websites list career fairs and may be useful: [www.graduatecareers.com.au](http://www.graduatecareers.com.au) [www.graduateopportunities.com](http://www.graduateopportunities.com) [www.gradconnection.com.au](http://www.gradconnection.com.au)
- Some organisations run special schemes to help people find short-term work. These generally offer a full package helping with visa, transfers from the airport, accommodation for the

first few nights, an orientation programme and help with finding work. These schemes do charge but often provide people with an instant network of fellow visitors/travellers. Examples of these schemes include: USIT [www.usit.ie](http://www.usit.ie) go4less [www.go4less.ie](http://www.go4less.ie) IST Plus [www.istplus.com](http://www.istplus.com) BUNAC [www.bunac.org](http://www.bunac.org)

- Using local employment agencies can also be a useful means of getting a job. Australian Workplace – is a useful government portal linking to other job vacancy sites; provides access to online services and information. The site covers employment information, government assistance, jobs, careers, training, working conditions, and volunteering opportunities. Private employment agencies are listed in the Yellow Pages [www.yellowpages.com.au](http://www.yellowpages.com.au) look under 'Employment Services' and 'Employment - Labour Hire Contractors'. Many of these agencies have websites which advertise vacancies. Here are some examples:

- Australian Job Search
- Byron Employment - job listing service with an e-mail alert service for candidates plus a searchable database of recruitment agencies.
- Career One: Job Search. Find YOUR next career opportunity.
- Doctorconnect [www.doctorconnect.gov.au](http://www.doctorconnect.gov.au) Single point of entry providing an authoritative source of information and advice to qualified overseas trained doctors.
- Graduate Careers - graduate careers and recruitment in Australia plus links to employer and careers service sites.
- Graduate Opportunities vacancies for graduates and links to major employers.
- Jobnet Australia - specialises in the IT/computer industry.

## **HOW TO APPLY FOR A JOB**

When you find a job vacancy that is suitable, your application will usually require: covering letter and CV (called résumé in Australia) with details of qualifications and references. In terms of content and layout an Australian résumé and covering letter is similar to its Irish equivalent. Your application should focus on the job you are applying for and should be concentrated on your achievements. It should also emphasise your competencies (skills) and contain information on qualifications and work experience. For help with writing job applications and interview techniques in Australia see [www.careerfaqs.com.au](http://www.careerfaqs.com.au) and [www.jobsearch.gov.au](http://www.jobsearch.gov.au)

**Online applications** are becoming more common and require a similar amount of attention to detail. Make sure you write a concise application email and attach your résumé. Remember to always use full words and formal language when submitting an online application or applying via email.

### **Apply for a tax file number**

To receive an income in Australia, you need a Tax File Number (TFN). You can apply for a TFN online see: <https://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Tax-file-number/>  
[Online tax file number registration system for permanent migrants and individuals visiting Australia](http://www.ato.gov.au)  
[www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au)

### **Open a bank account**

In Australia, most income including salary or wages and government benefits are paid directly into a bank account. You should open a bank account within six weeks of your arrival, as you usually need only your passport as identification. After six weeks you will need extra identification to open an account.

## Health

Australia has a reciprocal health agreement with Ireland. Irish residents visiting Australia (including those on the 12 month working holiday visa) may use the public health system for any immediately necessary treatment during their stay [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)

Irish residents on student visas are not covered by the Agreement. They must be insured with the Overseas Student Health Cover, an inexpensive Government scheme for foreign students.

Further Information on all issues relating to citizenship, working conditions and settling in Australia see [www.australia.gov.au](http://www.australia.gov.au).

All visitors to Australia need a passport and a visa. If you intend to do any kind of work in Australia, it is important to obtain the correct visa before you go

There is no visa office in the Dublin Embassy, Irish people can contact the Australian High Commission in London [www.uk.embassy.gov.au](http://www.uk.embassy.gov.au) However, applications and initial enquiries may also be made through the local service provider/agent. Note: you do not need to apply through a migration agent to get a visa. Make sure agents you use are registered with [www.mara.gov.au](http://www.mara.gov.au).

- There are several different types of visa depending on the reason for visiting.
- A useful starting point is the Australian embassy in Dublin web site [www.ireland.embassy.gov.au](http://www.ireland.embassy.gov.au) or [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au)

## Australia – Study

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Studying abroad has now become very popular for Irish students. It provides a great opportunity to combine studying and the experience of living in a new country and culture. Australia has traditionally been seen as a 'gap-year' destination, but is increasingly becoming a place for study and it readily welcomes international students. Neither the Australian Embassy in Ireland or the Australian High Commission have an Education Officer so a good start for potential students is the official Australian site for international students.

### GENERAL

- Before you can start a course of study in Australia you must obtain a student visa. Irish nationals are able to apply for the student visas online on:  
[https://ireland.embassy.gov.au/dubl/Visas and Migration.html](https://ireland.embassy.gov.au/dubl/Visas_and_Migration.html) &  
<https://ireland.embassy.gov.au/>
- The Australian higher education system is very similar to the Irish one based on lectures and tutorials and all Australian degrees are internationally recognised
- Universities are located in all capital cities (Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Darwin, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney) and other regional centres and cities. For a complete list of Universities in Australia, see [www.australian-universities.com/](http://www.australian-universities.com/)
- There is a wide variety of subjects and locations available for international students. Postgraduate qualifications are broadly similar to those in Ireland and students can undertake either taught or research postgraduate programmes that range from six months to four years.
- All applicants for postgraduate study in Australia must have completed an undergraduate degree from a recognised institution. Entry requirements are set by individual universities and some want a final minimum grade of 2.1 whereas others are more concerned about the relevance of the undergraduate degree.
- It is important to apply for your course well in advance of enrolment for many courses deadlines are around four months before the start of the course. International admissions can be difficult, so it is advisable to have all documentation ready about six months before the deadline to allow for any problems. **Australian universities begin the academic year in late February and finish in November.**

### Useful Websites

- <http://studylink.com/study-in-australia/> has information on study in Australia including profiles on the type of courses available in a range of degree disciplines.
- [www.gooduniguide.com.au/](http://www.gooduniguide.com.au/) you can search for courses or particular institutions including entry requirements using Hobsons Guides - Australia.
- [www.australian-universities.com](http://www.australian-universities.com) for more information on studying in Australia,
- [www.studyoptions.com](http://www.studyoptions.com) is a useful free advice and guidance service for Irish and UK students looking to apply to study in Australia
- [www.idp.com](http://www.idp.com) represents Australian universities, informing and advising international students on Australian education and assisting in enrolment in Australian institutions across all sectors.
- [www.graduatecareers.com.au](http://www.graduatecareers.com.au) graduate careers Australia has information on postgraduate study including profiles on the types of courses available in a range of degree disciplines
- [www.studyinaustralia.gov.au](http://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au) website has a useful six steps outlining the stages of looking for a course and applying to study in Australia
- [https://careersportal.ie/ed\\_training/study\\_abroad.php?parent=16&ed\\_sub\\_cat\\_id=33](https://careersportal.ie/ed_training/study_abroad.php?parent=16&ed_sub_cat_id=33) website

has all the information you need if thinking of studying in Australia or New Zealand.

## **COSTS**

- Tuition fees are set by each institution and vary depending on courses.
- International students are charged up-front tuition fees in Australia. For a guide check <http://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/en/Study-Costs/Fees>. Generally postgraduate courses range from \$20,000 to 37,000 a year.
- Some institutions make an additional charge to cover other student costs - these may include student organisation membership, library and laboratory costs and sports facility costs. You may also have to pay a specific charge for excursions, books, stationery and other essential material for some courses.
- Before you go to Australia, you must show that you have enough money to pay for living expenses, education costs and travel for the duration of your study. The Australian government recommends that on average an international students will spend approximately \$500 per week on living costs, [www.studyinaustralia.gov.au](http://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au) but of course this can vary depending on individuals and locations.
- Most students take part-time or casual jobs at some time during their studies. A visa can permit you to work up to 40 hours per fortnight on a casual basis during course time and full-time during vacation periods. If work is available you will need to obtain a tax file number from the Australian Taxation Office [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au). You must contact them about their requirements and processes.
- Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) is compulsory and you will not be able to apply for your student visa until you have purchased a policy recommended by your host university. For more information on (OSHC) visit <http://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/en/Study-Costs/OSHC>.
- There are many options for accommodation in Australia. You can choose from a variety of high standard student accommodation available to suit different budgets and needs. Check out <https://www.student.com/au> or [www.australian-universities.com/accommodation](http://www.australian-universities.com/accommodation). Institutions provide students with help in finding accommodation and understanding lease and tenancy conditions. Temporary accommodation can be arranged before you leave home allowing you time on arrival to consider where and how you would like to be accommodated in the longer term.
- Student notice boards and newspapers often advertise rooms, apartments and houses for rent.
- Further advice is available from your individual institution.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

- While the majority of international students in Australia are full-fee paying students, you might also choose to consider a student scholarship. These scholarships are offered by the Australian Government, education institutions and a number of other organisations. Scholarships offered cover various educational sectors including vocational and technical education, student exchanges, undergraduate and postgraduate study and research.
- Information on scholarships can be found on the Australian Embassy Dublin website [www.ireland.embassy.gov.au](http://www.ireland.embassy.gov.au) and on [www.studyinaustralia.gov.au](http://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au)
- Details of postgraduate scholarships can be found on the Joint Academic Scholarship on-line network (JASON) website <http://www.studying-in-australia.org/scholarships/>
- The website of the Department of Education & Training has information about the annual Endeavour Scholarship Programme.

<https://internationaleducation.gov.au/Scholarships/Scholarships-and-Fellowships/Pages/default.aspx> See also <https://www.anu.edu.au/study/scholarships/find-a-scholarship/australian-government-research-training-program-agrtp> for details of Australian Government Research Training Programme (AGRPT) International Fee Offset Scholarship which is open to anyone wishing to undertake a Higher Degree research qualification in Australia. <https://www.anu.edu.au/study/scholarships/find-a-scholarship/australian-government-research-training-program-agrtp>

## Australia – Visas

All visitors to Australia need a passport and a visa. If you intend to do any kind of work in Australia, it is important to obtain the correct visa before you go

- There is no visa office in the Dublin Embassy, Irish people can contact the Australian High Commission in London [www.uk.embassy.gov.au](http://www.uk.embassy.gov.au) However, applications and initial enquiries may also be made through the local service provider/agent. Note: you do not need to apply through a migration agent to get a visa. Make sure agents you use are registered with <https://www.mara.gov.au/>
- There are several different types of visa depending on the reason for visiting.
- A useful starting point is the Australian embassy in Dublin web site [www.ireland.embassy.gov.au](http://www.ireland.embassy.gov.au) or <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/>

## STUDENT VISAS

- If you wish to undertake a course of study in Australia lasting for more than 3 months, you will need to apply for a student visa.
- Once you have a student visa and have started your course you can apply for permission to work.
- Generally, students are limited to 40 hours work per week per fortnight when the student's course of study is in session and full-time during vacation periods.
- To obtain a visa to study in Australia you must be fully enrolled in an Australian institution and receive a "Confirmation of Enrolment (COE)". These forms are issued by the Australian institution you will be attending and are usually issued after tuition fees have been received. Irish nationals are able to apply for the student visas online on: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/>

## WORKING HOLIDAY VISAS

- Most graduates visit Australia on a 12 month Working Holiday Visa which allows you to work either full-time or part-time for as much of the year that you want.
- Working Holiday Visa holders who are working in several primary industries, plant and animal cultivation, fishing and pearling, tree farming and felling, mining and construction, will be eligible to apply for a second working holidaymaker visa, thus extending their trip from 12 to 24 months. There is also the option of taking advantage of a second visa if you can prove you have worked for a minimum of three months in 'specified' work (previously called 'seasonal' work) e.g. fruit picker. <https://www.nationalvisas.com.au/working-holiday-visas/>

## IMMIGRATION VISAS

- If you are thinking of living and working in Australia on a more permanent basis, you can apply to immigrate to Australia through the Australian General Skilled Migration (GSM) Program via the 'SkillsSelect' system. The program is designed to attract skilled migrants who can make an immediate contribution to the Australian economy. <https://www.australianskilledmigration.com.au/general-skilled-migration/> Your occupation must be listed on the [Skilled Occupation List](#). Applicants need to have relevant professional qualifications and, usually work experience, to prove that they have the skills to contribute to

the economy

- The Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs <http://www.immi.gov.au> website has the latest, detailed information about visas. Also see the TU Dublin Career Centre 'Working in Australia' handout.

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Australia to axe the 457 temporary work visa. <http://www.thejournal.ie/457-visas-australia-3344764-Apr2017/>