

Common Immigration Visa Pathways to Australia

Roam Migration Law has put together a table of the most common immigration pathways and the associated visas to Australia.

	Employer Nomination Scheme (Sc 186) visa	Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) (Sc 494) visa	Temporary Skill Shortage (Sc 482) visa	Temporary Work (Short Stay Specialist) (Sc 400) visa	Student (Sc 500) visa	Work and Holiday (Sc 462) visa	Working Holiday (Sc 417) visa	Visitor (Sc 600) - Tourist Stream (offshore) visa
Sponsored?	Yes	Yes	Yes, you must be nominated in an occupation on the relevant skilled occupation list.	Generally, yes. Some freelance work might be allowed.	No – applicant must be enrolled in a course of study.	Citizens of certain countries must provide a letter of support from their government.	No. Only citizens of certain countries may apply for this visa.	No
Employment	The nominating employer must ensure the position is available to the 186 visa holder on a full-time basis for at least two years. However, there are no employment	You must work only in a designated regional area for your nominating employer in your nominated occupation.	Usually, you can only work in your nominated occupation with your nominating employer.	You can work in a temporary, short-term, highly specialised job. The work must be consistent with the work specified in the visa application. The work must not be in the entertainment industry.	Work restrictions for international students have been relaxed temporarily. This means students can work before their course commences and work more than 40 hours a	Usually, you can only work for the same employer for 6 months. NB: this limitation has been relaxed temporarily. Study or training allowed for up to 4 months.	You can do any kind of work on this visa. Usually, you can only work for the same employer for 6 Months. Study allowed for	No work allowed – volunteering might be allowed.

	conditions associated with the 186 visa.				fortnight in any sector. These temporary measures remain in place until further notice.		up to 4 months.	
Minimum Salary (AUD) The applicant must be paid at the market salary rate and above TSMIT.	\$53,900	\$53,900	\$53,900	N/A	The national minimum wage is \$21.38 per hour or \$812.60 per 38 hour week (before tax) Casual employees covered by the national minimum wage also get at least a 25% casual loading	The national minimum wage is \$21.38 per hour or \$812.60 per 38 hour week (before tax) Casual employees covered by the national minimum wage also get at least a 25% casual loading	The national minimum wage is \$21.38 per hour or \$812.60 per 38 hour week (before tax) Casual employees covered by the national minimum wage also get at least a 25% casual loading	N/A – No work allowed
Skill Level	Applicants need to have the relevant work experience.	Applicants must have been employed in the nominated occupation for at least 3 years	Must have worked in the nominated occupation or a related field	You must have specialised skills/knowledge/experience that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can assist Australian businesses 	N/A	Must meet an educational requirement – this will depend on	N/A	N/A

	Most applicants need to have a skills assessment to show they have the required skills to work in the nominated occupation.	on a full-time basis at the skill level required for the nominated occupation. Most applicants need to have a skills assessment to show they have the required skills to work in the nominated occupation.	for at least 2 years. Some applicants will need a positive skills assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can't reasonably be found in the Australian labour market • Will be non-ongoing 		your country of citizenship.		
English Language	Must have Competent English unless exempt.	Must have Competent English unless exempt.	Applicants must meet certain minimum standards of English language proficiency.	N/A	Evidence of English language skills may be required.	Must have Functional English	N/A	N/A
Government Charges (AUD)	\$4240 – main applicant \$2120 – additional applicants >18 \$1060 – additional applicants <18	\$4240 – main applicant \$2120 – additional applicants >18 \$1060 – additional applicants <18	ST Stream: \$1330 – main applicant \$1330 – additional applicants >18 \$335 – additional	\$325 – main applicant \$325 – additional applicants >18 \$80 – additional applications <18	\$650 – main applicant \$485 – additional applicants >18 \$160 – additional applicants <18	\$510	\$510	From \$150

			<p>applicants <18</p> <p>MT Stream: \$2770 – main applicant \$2770 – additional applicants >18 \$695 – additional applicants <18</p>					
Duration	Permanent	Up to 5 years	<p>Up to 2 years or up to 4 years depending in your occupation.</p> <p>Hong Kong passport holders may stay up to 5 years.</p>	Up to 6 months	Up to 5 years depending on length and type of course.	Up to 12 months	Up to 12 months	Up to 12 months
Dependents permitted?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Pathway to Permanent Residency?	This is a permanent visa	Yes	This will depend on your occupation.	No	No	No	No	No