

A photograph of a family of children blowing bubbles outdoors in a garden setting. In the foreground, a young boy in a dark blue t-shirt is blowing a bubble. To his right, a girl in a colorful patterned dress is also blowing a bubble. In the background, other children and adults are sitting on the grass, some holding bubble wands. The scene is bright and sunny, with trees and a house visible in the distance.

Hammond Taylor a migration law firm

SkillSelect

**Independent migration to
Australia**

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Migrating to Australia through SkillSelect

Migrating to Australia is not easy. Australia has one of the highest standards of life in the world and the Australian government manages migration carefully. For many people the best option will be through the SkillSelect program, which targets potential migrants on the basis of their occupation to meet Australian skills shortages.

SkillSelect visas provide an independent, or sponsored, pathway to Permanent Residency and life in Australia.

The SkillSelect Program

The SkillSelect program includes three visas:

- the Permanent Subclass 189 Independent Skilled visa;
- the Permanent Subclass 190 Skilled Nominated visa;
- the Provisional Subclass 489 Skilled Provisional visa – which is temporary but can lead to a permanent visa.

To qualify for one of the SkillSelect visas prospective applicants must work an occupation listed by the Department of Immigration on the ‘Skilled Occupation List’ (SOL) and have relevant attributes (qualifications, age, work experience, English skills, etc.) to meet a ‘points test’.

To qualify for the visa applicants must obtain a minimum point score of 60 points and show this through an ‘Expression of Interest’ application. The Department of Immigration invites applicants who meet the points test to apply for a visa.

Points are given for age, qualifications, work experience, English language ability and a variety of other factors. For the 190 and 489 visa additional points may be given for government sponsorship or sponsorship by a family member.

Subclass 189 and 190 Permanent Residency

Once granted these visas give immediate access to Permanent Residency. Permanent Residency gives you and your family the right to remain in Australia for the rest of your life. Permanent Residents have access to the Australian government subsidised medical system, Medicare, and the social security system (some waiting periods may apply). Permanent Residents have unlimited work rights and can work in any occupation in Australia provided they meet local licensing requirements set out by state and federal governments.

Subclass 489 Provisional Visas

The 489 is a Provisional visa. Provisional visas are not permanent. However, they do provide a pathway to Permanent Residency. Holders of the 489 visa must meet a number of conditions over a period of several years including employment and residing in a regional area. Provided the visa holder meets these criteria they will be granted Permanent Residency at the end of the 489 visa period.

Occupations on the ‘Skilled Occupation List’

A full list of occupations which qualify for the SkillSelect visa can be found on the Department of Immigration and Border Protection’s website: <http://www.immi.gov.au/Work/Pages/skilled-occupations-lists/sol.aspx>

Qualifying through SkillSelect

We can assist you to understand if you will qualify for one of the SkillSelect visas. An initial assessment on whether your occupation appears on the SOL can be completed at no cost.

In most cases qualifying for the visa will require you to obtain a positive 'Skills Assessment'. Skills Assessments are issued by accredited Australian bodies, such as Engineers Australia or the Australian Computer Society, where they find that someone meets standards expected of an Australian professional. We can assist with this process. If you have not completed an English exam listed by the Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection then you may need to complete an exam and obtain a threshold score to qualify. Some exemptions apply based on whether you hold a UK, US, NZ, or Irish passport. We will help guide you through the process step by step with professional advice and assistance.

State and Territory Sponsorship

Each state and territory maintains a list of occupations it will sponsor for the Subclass 190 and 489 visas. State sponsorship has additional requirements such as higher English levels, work experience, local residency or other criteria. We can advise on eligibility for each state and territory around Australia.

Our Application Process

We understand that applying for migration is costly and includes risks. We will help you to manage the risks by providing professional advice and assistance at each stage of the process. We also structure our services so that you can terminate the agreement at any time if you are unable to meet the requirements and no further fees will apply. Contact us today for assistance with Australian immigration advice.

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