



Onshore General Skilled Migration visa options

Australia's General Skilled Migration (GSM) programme is designed to attract skilled people and their families as migrants to Australia.

This flyer only provides general information about visa options for overseas skilled workers. For detailed and up-to-date information please visit the Department of Immigration and Citizenship's (DIAC) website at www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/index.htm.

To apply for a GSM visa you must meet some basic requirements (see table below). In addition to the basic requirements, most visas require that you be assessed against a 'points test' and obtain a pass mark (see table on the next page).

The onshore GSM visas are designed for recent graduates who have completed two years of study in Australia and intend to apply for a visa within six months of completing their qualifications. There are also visas for Working Holiday (subclass 417), Occupational Trainee (subclass 442), Skilled - Independent Regional (subclass 495), Skilled - Designated Area-Sponsored (subclass 496), Skilled - Regional Sponsored (subclass 487 and 475), Skilled - Graduate (subclass 485) and Skilled - Recognised Graduate (subclass 476) visa holders.

Basic requirements

If you wish to apply for an onshore GSM visa you must meet all of the following requirements.

Requirement	You must	You need to
Age	be under 45 years of age	
skilled occupation	nominate an occupation that is listed on the Skilled Occupation List (SOL) <i>and</i> have your skills assessed as suitable by the relevant Australian assessing authority.	refer to Form 1121i for occupations on the SOL and contact details for assessing authorities. obtain a skills assessment from the relevant assessing authority in order to apply.
English	have good English language ability to be able to work in Australia. A higher level of English is required for some occupations when it forms part of a skills assessment.	provide results of an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test. (This applies to most applicants). Information about English requirements and contact details for an IELTS testing centre near you are available on the department's website.
Australian qualification or work experience	have recently completed an Australian qualification after two years full-time study in Australia or more than one qualification totalling at least two years full-time study or have recent relevant work experience.	apply within six months of completing your Australian qualification or have been employed in a skilled occupation for a total of at least 12 out of the last 24 months.

eVisa – You can apply online for all GSM visas. To apply online go to www.immi.gov.au/e_visa/general-skilled-migration.htm and select General Skilled Migration. Applicants are encouraged to apply online, however applications can also be made by mail or courier.

For information on the GSM offshore visas visit www.immi.gov.au/skilled/general-skilled-migration/visa-options-outside.htm.

Who can apply for the onshore visa subclasses?	Types of onshore visa subclasses	Visa duration	Sponsorship required?	Required to work in regional Australia?	GSM points test pass mark	Skill requirements	Additional information
Skilled overseas students, Skilled - Graduate (subclass 485) and Skilled - Recognised Graduate (subclass 476) visa holders	Skilled – Independent (subclass 885)	Permanent	No	No	120	Assessed by relevant Australian authority as meeting skill requirements for nominated occupation	You must apply within six months of completing your Australian qualifications
	Skilled - Sponsored (subclass 886)	Permanent	Yes. Must be sponsored by a state/territory government or an eligible Australian relative	No	100	Assessed by relevant Australian authority as meeting skill requirements for nominated occupation	You must apply within six months of completing your Australian qualifications
Skilled – Independent Regional (subclass 495), Skilled – Designated Area-sponsored (subclass 496), and Skilled – Regional Sponsored (subclass 487 and 475) visa holders	Skilled - Regional (subclass 887)	Permanent	No	No	No points test	No skills assessment (second stage)	Second stage for provisional visas: Skilled - Regional Sponsored (subclass 487 and 475); Skilled - Independent Regional (subclass 495) and Skilled - Designated Area-Sponsored (subclass 496)
Skilled overseas students	Skilled - Graduate (subclass 485)	Temporary 18 months	No	No	No points test	Assessed by relevant Australian authority as meeting skill requirements for nominated occupation	18 month visa to assist onshore students to gain the points needed to apply for permanent GSM visas. May apply for a permanent GSM visa or employer sponsored visa at any time
Skilled overseas students, Skilled - Graduate (subclass 485), Skilled - Recognised Graduate (subclass 476), Working Holiday (subclass 417) and Occupational Trainee (subclass 442) visa holders.	Skilled - Regional Sponsored (subclass 487)	Provisional initially three years	Yes. Must be sponsored by a state/territory government agency or an eligible Australian relative	Yes	100	Assessed by relevant Australian authority as meeting skill requirements for nominated occupation	Must live for two years and work full-time for one year in a Specified Regional Area to apply for a Skilled - Regional (subclass 887) visa