



Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

Australia's visa arrangements for tourists and visitors

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Session Overview

- About the Department of Home Affairs
- Temporary visa types: ETA, eVisitor, Visitor –Tourist and Business streams, Transit
- Supporting documents
- How to apply: Online or VFS
- Health, Character and Biometrics
- Global Processing Times
- Questions

Department of Home Affairs

- 20 December 2017: creation of the Portfolio and Department of Home Affairs
- Portfolio brings together federal law enforcement, national and transport security, criminal justice, emergency management, multicultural affairs and immigration and border-related functions and agencies.
- Home Affairs includes what was DIBP plus more.
- New website www.homeaffairs.gov.au

Australian Embassy Bangkok

- The Immigration section (part of Home Affairs) at the Embassy is the largest.
- The temporary entry processing team assess visitor visas as well as temporary work and student visa applications
- The family migration team assess partner and child migration applications and citizenship by descent applications
- There is a significant Refugee and Humanitarian programme
- Integrity Section

Visitor Visa Information

- There has been growing interest from Thai visitors to Australia
 - Each year the lodgements of visitor visas grows
- February, March, April and September are our busiest months for Visitor visa processing in Bangkok
- Changes to visa validity – 3 year validity
- There are many different types of visas
- Use Visa Finder to determine the most beneficial for your client <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas>

Electronic Travel Authority (ETA)

- Subclass 601
- Allows the holder to:
 - Visit for tourism or business visitor purposes
 - Travel multiple times for up to a year
 - Stay three (3) months each visit
- Limited to certain nationalities see:
<http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/601-#tab-content-1>
- Can be obtained through airlines and travel agents
- Average processing time: usually less than 1 day

eVisitor

- Subclass 651
- Allows the holder to:
 - Visit for tourism or business visitor purposes
 - Travel multiple times for up to a year
 - Stay three (3) months each visit
- Online lodgement only
- No application fee
- Average processing time: usually less than 1 day
- Eligible passports: European Union and Andorra, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Norway, San Marino, Switzerland, Vatican City
- <http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/651->

Visitor visa (subclass 600) – Tourist Stream

- For tourism activities: have a holiday or visit family and friends
- Cannot undertake business activities
- Conditions may vary:
 - Single or multiple entry
 - Stay period typically three months
 - Validity typically three or twelve months (but can be up to three years)
- Permits study in Australia for up to three months
- Parents of Australian citizens or permanent residents can request a longer period of stay (up to 12 months) and validity (up to three years)

Tourist Stream – supporting documents

- Form 1419
- Evidence of employment (if any)
- Evidence of funds
- Evidence of support (financial, accommodation)
- Including evidence of relationship with the supporter (friend, relative, partner)
- Any other evidence (e.g. evidence of intended activity)
- Decision may be made on the documents submitted at time of application – no further request for information

Visitor visa (subclass 600) – Business Stream

- For business visitor activities only
- Cannot work, provide services or sell goods to the public
- Conditions may vary:
 - Single or multiple entry
 - Stay period typically three months
 - Validity typically three or twelve months (up to 3 years)
- Permits study in Australia for up to three months

Business Stream – supporting documents

- Form 1415
- Evidence of employment (if any)
- Evidence of funds
- Evidence of support (financial, accommodation)
- Evidence of the activity or event and/or invitation
- Decision may be made on the documents submitted at time of application – no further request for information

Temporary Activity Visas

- From 19 November 2016 the Temporary Activity Visa Framework was reduced to four visa subclasses:
 - Subclass 400 Temporary Work (Short Stay Specialist) visa
 - Subclass 403 Temporary Work (International Relations) visa
 - Subclass 407 Training visa
 - Subclass 408 Temporary Activity visa
- There are multiple streams within these subclasses
- Bangkok post processes
 - Subclass 400 Highly Specialised Work Stream
 - Subclass 403 Government Agreement, Foreign Government Agency and Domestic Worker Streams
 - Subclass 408 Invited Participant Stream

Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity) visa

- Subclass 400 – Online lodgement
- Allows the holder to:
 - Undertake short-term, highly specialised, non-ongoing work
 - In limited circumstances, participate in an activity or work relating to Australia's interest
- Stay period generally up to three months, sometimes, six months
- May be single or multiple entry – unlike other visas, stay period continues from first arrival date even if applicant departs Australia during validity
- Dependents (partner and children) can be included in the application

Temporary Work (International Relations) visa

- Subclass 403 – Online lodgement
- This visa will be for people who want to come to Australia on a temporary basis:
 - In relation to a bilateral agreement (**Government Agreement Stream**)
 - To represent a foreign government or to teach a foreign language in an Australian school (**Foreign Government Agency Stream**)
 - To undertake full-time domestic work for a diplomat (**Domestic Worker Stream**)
 - As a person with statutory privileges and immunities (*Privileges and Immunities Stream*)
 - To participate in the Seasonal Worker Programme (*Season Worker Program Stream*)
- Stay period will depend on circumstances and stream, could be longer than 12months

Temporary Activity visa

- Subclass 408 – Online lodgement
- This visa will be for people who want to come to Australia on a temporary basis:
 - Work in the entertainment industry (*Entertainment Activities Stream*)
 - Participate in a non-ongoing cultural or social activities at the invitation of an Australian organisation (***Invited for Other Social or Cultural Activity Stream***)
 - Observe or participate as an academic in a research project (*Research Activities Stream*)
 - Undertake full-time religious work (*Religious Work Stream*)
 - Participate in a special programme to enhance international relations and cultural exchange (*Exchange Arrangements Stream*)
 - Participate in high-level sports (including training) (*Sporting Activities Stream*)
 - Work in a skilled position under a staff exchange arrangement (*Exchange Arrangements Stream*)
 - Participate in an Australian government endorsed event (*AGEE Stream*)
 - Work as a superyacht crew member (*Superyacht Crew*)
 - Undertake full-time domestic work in the household of a certain senior foreign executives (*Domestic Work for Executives Stream*)
- Bangkok only processes the Invited Participant stream - Stay period for this stream is usually short ie 3 months or less

Transiting Australia

- Some passengers can transit Australia without applying for a visa, only if:
 - Entering Australia by aircraft
 - Confirmed onward booking within 8 hours of arrival
 - Not leaving airport transit area (that is, luggage has been checked through to final destination)
 - Must have an eligible passport
 - Includes Thailand

Transiting Australia

If not eligible for transit without visa, must apply for a visa:

- **Transit visa (subclass 771)**
- This visa allows the holder to transit through Australia
- No longer than 72 hours transit
- Permitted to leave the airport lounge
- Required documents:
 - Form 876
 - Confirmed onward booking
 - Correct documentation to enter a third country (e.g. visa)
- For transit longer than 72 hours > Visitor visa

How to apply for a visa

- What type of visa am I eligible for?
- Online Lodgement – ImmiAccount
- Paper Lodgement – VFS Global by appointment

Online Lodgement

- In addition to the ETA and eVisitor, the Subclass 600 Visitor visa and the Subclass 400 can be applied for online.
- Agents can lodge an application on behalf of applicant using ImmiAccount www.homeaffairs.gov.au/immiaccount
- All supporting documentation must be scanned and uploaded.
- Payment is made by credit card in Australian Dollars

Paper Lodgement

Australian Visa Application Centres (AVAC) in Thailand are operated by VFS Global.

Applications may be lodged by appointment

Two convenient locations:

- **Bangkok:** Trendy Office Building (28th Floor); Sukhumvit Soi 13
- **Chiang Mai:** Siriphanich, 191 Huaykaew Road
- Phone: 02 118 7100 and email: info.dibpth@vfshelpline.com
- Website: www.vfsglobal.com/Australia/Thailand

Health and Character

- All applicants must meet Australia's health requirements
 - Checks needed depend on visa type, stay period, purpose of stay and existing health conditions
 - The case officer will advise clients what checks are required
- Everyone who wants to enter Australia must be of good character and will be assessed against the character requirement.
 - Always encourage applicants to declare past conduct, criminal record

Biometrics

- Since 3 May 2016, most visa applicants in Thailand must provide their biometrics (face photo and fingerprints).
- This is done in person at an AVAC (in Bangkok or Chiang Mai) operated by VFS Global.
- Applicant must bring their passport.
- For online lodged applications, the applicant will be sent an email, which they then take to an AVAC.
- VFS require applicants to make an appointment and service fees apply.

Updating client details and checking visa status

- Applicants should be encouraged to update details prior to visa decision directly to their case officer
- Once an application has been decided an applicant can update their details:
 - For elodgements: online using ImmiAccount
 - For paper lodgements: clients should be referred to our website see <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/lega/Lega/Form/Immi-FAQs/how-can-i-update-my-address-or-passport-details>
- Clients should be encouraged to check details of their visa, including conditions, validity and stay periods using Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO) on our website at [https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Busi/visas-and-migration/visa-entitlement-verification-online-\(vevo\)](https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Busi/visas-and-migration/visa-entitlement-verification-online-(vevo))

Global Processing Times

Visa types	Stream	75% of applications processed in
600 Visitor	Tourist	15 days
600 Visitor	Business	7 days
400 Temporary Work	Short Stay Activity	13 days
771 Transit	Transit	5 days

*The above statistics are current as at 21 December 2017 (for month ending November 2017)

- The global processing times can be found on our website at <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about/access-accountability/service-standards/global-visa-citizenship-processing-times>

Reminders

- If you want to contact the Embassy on behalf of a visa applicant, you must have their consent – use **Form 956 or 956A**
- Visitor visa applicants are not recommended to make travel bookings/commitments before their visa application is finalised
- Complete applications are processed more quickly – applicants should include all that they wanted considered in their application
- The Embassy and VFS cannot provide migration advice – it is an applicant's own decision on which visa type to apply for.
- Applicants are encouraged to check our website to ensure they are lodging within the correct stream
- Provide supporting documents at time of lodgement noting that decisions may be made without further requests for documents
- Applicants should proceed with biometrics and health requirements as soon as requested to ensure timely processing

More Information

- Main website (all visa information):
 - www.homeaffairs.gov.au
 - ‘Individuals and Travellers’
- Australian Visa Application Centre (operated by VFS Global):
 - <http://www.vfsglobal.com/Australia/Thailand>

Questions

