

Fact Sheet

General Skilled Migration - Subclass 189 Skilled Independent Visa

The General Skilled Migration programme enables highly skilled workers to migrate permanently to Australia without sponsorship from an employer, a state or territory, or a family member.

Visa Criteria

In order to qualify for a subclass 189 Visa, you would need to:

- Lodge an EOI and be invited to apply;
- Meet the pass mark in the skilled migration points test of 65 points;
- Be aged between 18 and 44 inclusive;
- Pass a skills assessment in an occupation on the relevant Skilled Occupation List;
- Have competent English or higher;
- Meet health and character requirements.

Do I apply in Australia or Overseas?

You can either be in Australia or overseas when you apply for a subclass 189 Visa. In order to lodge from within Australia, you would need to hold a substantive visa or a Bridging A, B or C Visa. Once you apply from within Australia, you would receive a bridging visa allowing you to remain in Australia during processing of your visa application.

Including Family Members

You can include the following types of family members in your application:

- Spouses, de facto partners and same sex partners
- Dependent children
- Other dependent family members – e.g. parents who live with you and are financially dependent

Points Test System

To be eligible for this visa, you must achieve a score of at least 65 points against the test factors:

Factor	Description	Points
Age (at time of invitation)	18–24 years	25
	25–32 years	30
	33–39 years	25
	40–44 years	15
English language	Competent English (IELTS Band 6)	0
	Proficient English (IELTS Band 7)	10
	Superior English (IELTS Band 8)	20
Skilled employment in nominated skilled occupation or closely related skilled occupation	Outside Australia:	
	3 – 5 years	5
	5 – 8 years	10
	8 – 10 years	15
	In Australia:	

	1 – 3 years	5
	3 – 5 years	10
	5 – 8 years	15
	8 – 10 years	20
Qualifications	Doctorate	20
	Bachelor / Bachelor and Master degree	15
	Diploma or trade qualification	10
Australian study	Degree, diploma or trade in Australia	5
Spouse / Partner	No partner	10
	Partner with skills on the STSOL	10
	Partner with Competent English	5
	Partner with no skills	0
Other factors	NAATI-accredited language skills	5
	Study completed in regional Australia	5
	Professional Year in Australia	5
	Specialist research qualification	5
Regional Nomination	State / territory or family nomination	15

Application Process

1. Skills Assessment

The first stage of the application process involves completing a skills assessment with the relevant government authority. Your skills assessment enables the Department of Home Affairs to determine whether you have the required level of skill in your chosen occupation to work in Australia.

2. Expression of Interest

To be able to lodge a valid application for this visa you need to first submit an Expression of Interest through SkillSelect, where you will wait for an invitation to apply for the subclass 189 visa.

3. Invitation & 189 Visa Application

Once you have been issued an invitation, you must submit your visa application to the Department of Home Affairs within 60 days. At the time of application, you must provide evidence of skill level, English language ability, health and character.

Processing times

The current processing time outlined by the Department of Home Affairs is between 17 to 25 months for the Points-Tested and between 14 to 16 months for New Zealand.

Duration and Conditions

If you are outside Australia when the visa is granted, you and your family members will need to enter Australia for the first time prior to expiry of your health and police clearances. This is a permanent visa allowing applicants to remain in Australia indefinitely with full work rights. The travel facility on this visa is valid for 5 years, after which you will have to apply for a further Permanent Residence visa to be able to travel outside of Australia (if you have not been conferred Australian Citizenship by then).

Our Services

We provide an end-to-end migration solution including strategic advice and migration planning to achieve your goals. We operate on a fixed fee basis, our costs including the assistance of an Australian migration specialist from initial assessment and strategy, providing bespoke templates and advice, preparing your immigration applications and submissions, and liaison with the Department of Home Affairs.

Need more information?

Find further information about The Migration Agency and our services on our website www.themigrationagency.com.au or contact us by phone on (02) 8896 6056.