

Fact Sheet

Skilled Regional (Provisional) Subclass 491 Visa

The Skilled Regional (Provisional) Visa is a provisional visa, which requires nomination by a State or Territory Government, or by a family member living in a designated regional or remote area of Australia. The visa is valid for 5 years from the date it is granted.

Visa Criteria

To qualify for a Subclass 491 Visa, you would need to:

- Pass a Skills Assessment in an occupation on the regional occupations list
- Lodge an Expression of Interest and be invited to apply
- Be nominated by a State/Territory Government, or a family member who lives in a designated regional area
- Meet the pass mark in the skilled migration points test – currently 65 points
- Be aged between 18 and 44
- Have competent English or higher
- Meet health and character requirements

Each State/Territory government has its own list of occupations in demand and criteria to be met for state or territory nomination, such as work experience, an employment offer, English language ability or specialised skills. Some State or Territory Governments offer concessions to the General Skilled Migration points test.

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

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

In order to apply for this visa, you must first lodge an Expression of Interest through SkillSelect and be invited by the Department of Immigration to apply. Once you are invited to apply for a skilled visa, you must lodge your application within 60 days.

3. 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 Department of Home Affairs' published processing time is currently 8 to 12 months. Processing times can vary from case to case.

Do I apply in Australia or Overseas?

You can either be in Australia or overseas when you apply for this 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.

Pathway to Permanent Residency

491 visa holders may apply for permanent residency through the Permanent Residence (Skilled Regional) visa (subclass 191) after spending at least 3 years in the regional area and earning an income above a specified income threshold, currently \$53,900 per annum.

Our Services

Our services include an assessment of your eligibility for the visa, obtaining a skills assessment, devising strategies to maximise your points score and managing your bridging visa. We operate on a fixed fee basis, our costs including the assistance of a migration agent from initial assessment, preparation of the EOI and visa application, and liaison with the Department of Immigration.

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.