

# Australia funds Requirements

## Travel, tuition and living expenses

You must have enough money to pay for travel, tuition and living expenses for yourself, your partner and your dependent children for the duration of your stay in Australia.

You must:

- **show proof** that you can meet these financial requirements for the first **18 months** of your stay in Australia.  
**Note:** If you have completed 75 percent of your course and are applying for a subsequent student visa, you do not need to show your savings history.
- **declare** on your application that you can meet these financial requirements for the remainder of your stay in Australia.

The table below outlines the amounts in Australian dollars (AUD) that you need access to. These amounts are the minimum required for this visa. They do not necessarily represent the cost of living in Australia.

Expenses	Per Person	Amount required in AUD
Travel	Yourself	Return air fare to Australia
	Family members	One return air fare to Australia per person
Tuition	Yourself	Course fees
	Children aged 5-18	AUD8000 per year
Living	Yourself	AUD18 610 per year
	Partner	AUD6515 per year
	First child	AUD3720 per year
	Each other child	AUD2790 per year

The department must be satisfied that an applicant, once in Australia, will have genuine access to the funds they claim to possess to cover the travel, tuition and living costs for themselves and their family members.

## Acceptable sources of income

The money to support you and your family members must come from one or more acceptable sources, which may include:

- a money deposit with a financial institution held by you, or a person supporting you, for at least three consecutive months immediately before the date of your visa application
- a loan from a financial institution made to you or a person supporting you
- a loan from your government
- your proposed education provider
- the Australian Government or an Australian State or Territory government
- the government of a foreign country
- a provincial or state government of a foreign country that has the written support of the national government of the foreign country
- an organisation gazetted by the Minister
- an acceptable non-profit organisation

- a multilateral agency.

**Examples:** United Nations, World Bank or Asian Development Bank

**Note:** Non-cash assets such as property and shares are not acceptable sources of income. However, non-cash assets may be liquidated or used as collateral on a loan, if they are provided by an acceptable source.

### **Providing evidence of deposits or loans**

You need to show evidence of how the money to fund your studies was accumulated.

If your source of income is a money deposit held in a bank account, you must provide the following evidence:

- pay slips
- bank loan documents
- interest from investments.

If your source of income is a loan, you must provide the following evidence:

- a bank statement showing the amount of available credit
- a statement from the holder of the loan that its purpose is to support your studies.

**Note:** If your source of income is a home loan with a redraw facility from an Australian financial institution, the funds from the redraw facility may be considered a loan. A home loan with a redraw facility from a non-Australian financial institution **may** be acceptable, but must be considered on a case-by-case basis.

### **Financial support from a non-profit organisation**

A non-profit organisation providing you with financial support must be lawfully established and operating in Australia or overseas.

You must show evidence of the organisation's non-profit status, including:

- statement from the Australian Taxation Office showing organisation's status
- documents of incorporation as a non-profit organisation.

You must also show evidence that the organisation has sufficient funds or income to support you financially. Evidence may include:

- bank statements
- financial statements.

### **Supporting family members when studying for less than 12 months**

If you are applying to study in Australia for less than 12 months, your family members are **not** eligible to come with you to Australia. However, you **must** show that you have enough funds to support your family members in your home country, taking into consideration the standard cost of living in that country.

### **Prepaid boarding or homestay fees**

If you are boarding or have entered into homestay arrangements with your education provider and have prepaid your boarding or homestay fees, the amount you have prepaid can be deducted from the total amount of living costs you must demonstrate to the department.

You will need to show evidence to the department of the boarding or homestay fees as separate from the tuition fees.

**Example:** A contract or an authorised receipt of payment from your education provider.

**Note:** Only formal boarding or homestay arrangements will be accepted by the department. Prepayment of private boarding or homestay arrangements or rent will not be deducted from the living cost requirement.

International students are required to demonstrate and/or declare that they have genuine access to sufficient funds to be granted a Student visa. Applicants may have to demonstrate sufficient funds to cover these expenses for the first one or two years in Australia, depending on their assessment level.

**See:** [Student Visa Assessment Levels](#)

This helps to ensure students are better able to make the most of their studies and have a safe and enjoyable experience in Australia. Funds should be sufficient to contribute to the cost of travel, tuition, school costs of any dependents, and living costs.

**The financial requirements per year outlined in the tables below apply from 1 July 2012.**

### Students

Expenses	Per Person	Amount required in AUD
Travel	Applicant	Return air fare to Australia
	Family members	One return air fare to Australia per person
Tuition	Applicant	Course fees
	School-age children aged 5-18	AUD8000 per year
Living	Applicant	AUD18 610 per year
	Partner	AUD6515 per year
	First child	AUD3720 per year
	Each other child	AUD2790 per year

### Student Guardians

Expenses	Per Person	Amount required in AUD
Travel	Applicant	Return air fare to Australia
	Children aged under 6 years of age	One return air fare to Australia per person
Living	Applicant	AUD18 610 per year
	First child aged under 6	AUD3720 per year
	Each other child aged under 6	AUD2790 per year

Decision makers will consider a range of factors in determining whether funds demonstrated or declared will be genuinely available to contribute to the cost of studying and living in Australia. These factors may include:

- the applicant's previous financial and immigration history
- the employment history of the applicant or the person providing them with financial support
- the source of the income used (such as cash assets or a bank loan).

Where there is doubt about an applicant's ability to access their claimed funds in Australia, the applicant may be requested to provide further information.

**Example:** Applicants relying on a bank loan may need to show that these funds have been deposited into a bank account to which they have unrestricted access, and that they have the financial capacity to service the loan both before they depart for Australia and once they arrive.

## Changes to the Student Visa Living Cost Amount

### Frequently asked questions

#### **What changes are being made to the living cost amount for Student visa applicants?**

From 1 July 2012, the living cost amount for applicants for Student visas and the Student Guardian visa will increase as follows:

- AUD 18 000 per year to AUD 18 610 per year for the main student
- AUD 6300 per year to AUD 6515 per year for the student's partner
- AUD 3600 per year to AUD 3720 per year for the student's first child
- AUD 2700 per year to AUD 2790 per year for every other child.

International students need to demonstrate and/or declare that they have genuine access to the living cost amount to be granted a Student visa. Applicants may have to demonstrate sufficient funds to cover these expenses for the first one or two years in Australia, depending on their assessment level.

The Student visa living cost amount applies to all dependants regardless of whether or not they intend to accompany the main student to Australia.

#### **Why is the Student visa living cost amount increasing?**

In June 2011 the Knight review raised concerns that the existing living cost amount for Student visa applicants did not adequately prepare students for the realities of moving to Australia to study. The review recommended the department regularly review and adjust the living cost amount for Student visa applicants.

Accordingly, the department will review the living cost amount annually, and adjust it according to movements in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI is a measure of changes over time in the cost of goods and services in Australia. Adjusting the living cost amount to align with the CPI supports the government's objective of ensuring that Student visa applicants are financially prepared to live and study in Australia for the duration of their visa.

#### **When will these changes take effect?**

The new living cost amount for Student visa applicants will take effect on 1 July 2012.

#### **Which student visa applicants are affected by the changes to the living cost amount?**

The change to the living cost amount applies to all Student and Student Guardian visa applications lodged on or after 1 July 2012.

#### **Will the living costs increase again in the future?**

Any further changes will be considered following annual reviews of the living cost amount. The next review is scheduled for mid-2013.

#### **Where to get more information?**

More information will be provided on the department's website as it becomes available.

## Course Packaging

Students may package their studies to combine a preliminary course with their **main** course of study on the one visa subclass. The subclass that applies to the package would be the one that corresponds to the **main** course. The student's Assessment Level is based on the package of courses they are studying:

- If a student is studying a **package** of courses, their Assessment Level is based on the country of their passport and the **highest Assessment Level**, that applies to any of the courses in their package.
- If a student is studying a **package** of courses that includes an ELICOS course, their Assessment Level is based on the country of their passport and the **highest Assessment Level** that applies to any of the courses in their package with the exception of the ELICOS course.
- If a student is only studying a **main** course of study their Assessment Level is based on the country of their passport and the Assessment Level applicable to the visa subclass of the **main** course.

**Example:** A student from Vietnam has received offers from Australian education providers to study the following courses in Australia:

- a preliminary English language course in the Independent ELICOS Sector (Subclass 570) subject to Assessment Level 3, then
- a Bachelor degree in the Higher Education Sector (Subclass 573) subject to Assessment Level 2, and finally
- a Masters by Research in the Postgraduate Research Sector (Subclass 574) subject to Assessment Level 1.

This student could package all three courses under the visa subclass for a Masters by Research (Subclass 574, Postgraduate Research Sector). However, the student will be subject to Assessment Level 2 requirements against the main course (Masters by Research). This is because the Assessment Level for the Bachelor degree is the highest in the package and this is applied against the main visa subclass (the Assessment Level for the ELICOS course is excluded from the Assessment Level calculation).

More information on Assessment Levels is available.

**See:** [Student Visa Program - Assessment Levels](#) (formerly known as Form 1219i) ( 73KB PDF file)

## Course packaging and eligibility for Streamlined visa processing

Students intending to combine their main course of study with a preliminary course are eligible for streamlined visa processing if:

- the student holds a confirmation of enrolment (CoE) for each course within the package
- the main course of study is a Bachelor degree or Masters degree by coursework (subclass 573) or a Masters degree by Research or Doctoral degree (subclass 574)
- the main course of study is provided by a participating university
- The preliminary courses are an ELICOS, foundation or other pathway course (for example, bridging course or vocational educational course) that are prerequisite to or enable the student to commence their main course of study
- the preliminary course must be provided by an educational business partner nominated by the student's university providing the main course.

Applicants of Non Award Sector: Temporary Visa (subclass 575) at a participating university are not eligible for streamlined visa processing if they combine their main course with preliminary courses.