

MONTHLY IMMIGRATION BULLETIN

The latest immigration news, views and announcements

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AUSTRALIA MAY OPEN ITS BORDERS TO ELIGIBLE VISA HOLDERS

From 15th December 2021, fully vaccinated eligible visa holders can travel to Australia without applying for a travel exemption. Eligible visa holders are people who hold temporary visas, including prospective marriage visa holders, student visa holders, working holiday visa holders, New Zealand family relationship visa holders and more (see full list below through following link). Twenty-eight visa types will be eligible under the scheme.

[Vaccinated travellers | COVID-19 and the border \(homeaffairs.gov.au\)](https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/vaccinated-travellers)

Travellers who hold an eligible temporary visa will not need a travel exemption to enter Australia. The quarantine arrangements are as per the individual state requirements. Please be noted that these news updates could be subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances with prevailing COVID 19 conditions in the country.

For the latest insights on new issues emerging with the OMICRON variant in 2021, please visit <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

MELBOURNE REOPENS AS WORLD'S MOST LOCKED-DOWN CITY EASES LIMITS

Australia's second-largest city has so far endured 262 days, or nearly nine months, of restrictions during six separate lockdowns since March 2020, representing the longest cumulative lockdown for any city in the world.

The lives of long-suffering Victorians have at last returned to normal as the state ends almost all Covid lockdown restrictions after hitting the 90 per cent vaccination rate.

Since 11.59pm on Thursday 18th November there are now no more fun-killing capacity limits on pubs, clubs, restaurants and cafes.

Victoria State Premier Daniel Andrews on Friday promised there would be "no more lockdowns" as the state reached its vaccination targets.

But the new freedoms are only available to those who've had the jab, with anyone refusing to roll up their sleeve still shut out from most places, including non-essential shopping, hospitality venues, beauty services, and sport and recreation facilities.



MAJOR NEWS FOR SECTION 48 BARRED APPLICANTS WITH VISA CANCELLATIONS OR REFUSALS.

Applicants who have had a visa refused or revoked since their last admission into Australia were subject to the section 48 ban. Previously, if an applicant was subject to a section 48 bar, they had to leave Australia before reapplying for a visa.

However, since 13 November 2021, applicants with visa cancellations or refusals (section 48 prohibited) will be eligible to apply for visa subclasses 190, 491, and 494 while onshore, rather than needing to leave Australia to reapply for a visa.

MORE SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SECTOR AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



The Morrison Government will introduce further targeted measures to support the international education sector as international borders reopen. This announcement would accelerate the COVID-19 recovery process for the 2022 academic year.

These new target measures will include:

- Temporary Graduate (subclass 485) visa holders who have been unable to travel to Australia as a result of COVID-19 international border restrictions will be able to apply for a replacement visa. This will allow current and former Temporary Graduate (subclass 485) visa holders whose visas expired on or after 1 February 2020 to re-apply for a new subclass 485 visa of the same duration as their original visa.
- Increase the length of stay on the Temporary Graduate visa from two to three years for Masters by coursework graduates, matching that of Masters by research graduates. Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector graduates will also receive a two year Temporary Graduate visa.
- Extend existing measures for students and temporary graduates to recognise time spent offshore studying online to count towards qualifying for a temporary graduate visa.

More than \$37 million will be available to support those international education providers most affected by COVID-19. Extended regulatory fee waivers and additional grants are elements of this. In addition, changes to visa settings will also provide much needed flexibility for international students as they set to return to Australia.



VACCINATION PASSPORT FOR NON-MEDICARE CARDHOLDERS

Clients and temporary residents who are not enrolled with Medicare will not be able to receive vaccination certificates or 'passports' regularly.

ENGINEERING OCCUPATIONS TO OPEN TO OFFSHORE APPLICANTS!

To manage South Australia's COVID recovery response, an additional 24 Engineering occupations was opened to applicants currently residing offshore from Tuesday 2 November 2021.

The minimum requirements for state nomination for offshore occupations may vary between the below-mentioned criterias

* Applicant must have at least eight years work experience in the nominated or closely related occupation

* Applicant must demonstrate a Superior English level unless you hold an eligible passport from a country where the primary language is English (the United Kingdom, the United States of America, New Zealand, Ireland and Canada)

* Applicant must score at least 85 points for the Skilled Work Regional visa (subclass 491) in the Department of Home Affairs' points test.



VISA CHANGES AND SPECIAL CONCESSION FOR 482 AND 457 HOLDERS

The Morrison Government is making it easier for highly skilled migrants to remain in Australia and to continue working in critical sectors as Australia's economic recovery continues.

These visa changes will improve access to permanent residence for:

- Existing Temporary Skill Shortage (subclass 482) visa holders in the short-term stream
- Legacy Temporary Work Skilled (subclass 457) visa holders who no longer meet the age requirement.

This is a special concession recognising those highly skilled migrant workers who chose to stay in Australia throughout the pandemic, while continuing to address Australia's acute shortages. This allows them to stay here, with a pathway to Australian citizenship

Key visa changes announced by Morrison Government are;

- Existing Temporary Skill Shortage (subclass 482) visa holders in the short-term stream working in Health and Hospitality
- Legacy Temporary Work Skilled (subclass 457) visa holders who no longer meet the age requirement but continue working in skilled occupations
- About 20,000 primary Temporary Skill Shortage and 457 visa holders in Australia who may benefit from these arrangements.
- Most of these workers are employed in the highest-skilled occupations and the largest cohorts of workers benefiting from these changes include those currently employed in the health and hospitality industries, including many workers in regional Australia,
- Extensions for visas for skilled regional (provisional visa) holders (subclass 489, 491, and 494) in recognition that this cohort has been adversely affected by COVID-19 related travel restrictions.
- Around 9,000 skilled regional provisional visa holders overseas in these subclasses will benefit from these.
- Government will also extend by a further six-month Visa Application Charge waivers for new Visitor visa applicants overseas where their visa expired or will expire, between 1 January 2022 and 30 June 2022.



CANADA PROVIDES NEW DETAILS ON VACCINE REQUIREMENTS AND EXEMPTIONS FOR TRAVELERS



Travelers departing from Canadian airports and continuing on by Rail and Rocky Mountaineer trains will be required to be completely vaccinated.

This measure applies to people over the age of 12 who use federally regulated forms of transportation.

Travelers who have begun but have not finished the immunization process may submit documentation of a valid COVID - 19 molecular test until November 29.

They will not be able to travel after that date, apart from a few exemptions.

Those who are not immunized and who test positive for COVID 19 while traveling will not be allowed to travel further or return to their point of departure until they have spent 14 days in isolation.

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION IS MAKING MAJOR CHANGES TO THE NOC IN 2022.



Canada has implemented NOC 2021, and the modifications will be included into the immigration system in 2022.

The National Occupation Classification (NOC) is an important component of Canada's immigration system. Candidates for skilled workers and temporary foreign employees must demonstrate that their work experience meets the NOC requirements of the program to which they are applying. For example, Express Entry is the principal option to come to Canada as a skilled worker, and candidates must establish that their job experience

falls under NOC skill level O, A, or B as one of the Express Entry qualifying criteria.

NOC 2021 no longer uses the four skill type categories (i.e., NOC A, B, C, D), and now has a TEER system with six categories: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

The NOC is Canada's national occupational reference. It categorizes employment activities in Canada to aid in understanding the structure of the Canadian labor market, running government programs, promoting skill development, conducting research, and assisting Canada in managing its immigration and foreign worker programs.

NOC 2021 is the outcome of a lengthy process that included comprehensive research, analysis, and evaluation of the Canadian economy. Currently, NOC 2016 is used by IRCC, ESDC, and Canada's provinces and territories to run immigration and foreign worker programs.

EXPRESS ENTRY: SECOND LOWEST CRS FOR A PNP DRAW DURING THE PANDEMIC



775 Express Entry candidates are invited to apply for permanent residence in Canada.

All of the applicants who were invited had already been nominated through a provincial Nominee Program (PNP). Because Provincial Nominees are automatically awarded 600 points, the score cutoff was 685. The lowest-scoring contender would have received only 85 points if the nomination had not been granted.

In recent months, Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has solely drawn PNP candidates from the Express Entry Pool. In the last draw, IRCC invited 888 candidates with a minimum score of 744.

B.C. COMMUNITIES PARTICIPATE IN THE SECOND PHASE OF THE BC PNP ENTREPRENEUR IMMIGRATION REGIONAL PILOT

In order to recruit and welcome new entrepreneurs to launch businesses in these regions, more than 50 municipalities throughout the province have signed up to participate in Phase 2 of the BC PNP Entrepreneur Immigration (EI) Regional Pilot.

The EI Regional Pilot, which was launched in March 2019 to boost economic growth in B.C.'s smaller regional cities, is a unique collaboration between regional municipalities and the provincial government. Despite the effects of COVID-19, the pilot has shown its capacity to attract entrepreneurs from all over the world and contribute to area economic development needs during the previous two years.

With international travel restrictions beginning to relax in some parts of the world, new entrepreneurs will be able to bring their business skills to communities and assist them in their economic recovery and growth. The Regional Pilot for Entrepreneur Immigration (EI) in BC has been extended until March 31, 2024.



ONTARIO HOLDS BIGGEST PNP DRAW OF 2021

On October 27, Ontario invited 1406 Express Entry Candidates with a professional background in tech. Candidates who may be qualified for the Human Capital Priorities stream of Ontario's Express entry program are invited to apply. They needed an Express Entry System profile with a complete Ranking System score of 455 to 467.

Candidates must also have one year of work experience in one of the occupations listed below.

- Computer and Information System Managers
- Computer Engineers
- Data Base Analysts
- Software Engineers and Designers
- Computer Programmer and Interactive Media Developers
- Web Designers and Developers

Candidates who cannot demonstrate job experience in one of these occupations will be denied, according to the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program (OINP) website. In addition, invited candidates with foreign education may be required to submit an Educational Credential Assessment to the OINP in order for the OINP to verify that their education is equal to a Canadian bachelor's degree or above.

Those who have received an invitation now have 45 calendar days to apply for Ontario's Provincial Nominee Program (PNP).

Those who obtain an Ontario nomination will immediately receive an additional 600 CSR points toward their overall score in the Express Entry system. This boost effectively ensures that successful candidates will be invited to apply in a subsequent round of invitations. This applies to anyone who receives a provincial nomination from an Express Entry-aligned PNP.

This is Ontario's second Tech Draw.



REMEMBRANCE DAY



Each year, Remembrance Day falls on the 11th of November. The 11 Nov 2021 marks the 103rd anniversary of the Armistice that ended World War One in 1918.

On the 11th hour, on the 11th day of the 11th month, one minutes silence is observed and dedicated to those soldiers that died or suffered in war and on peacekeeping and humanitarian operations.

Between 1914 and 1918 Australia sent 414, 000 of citizens to face the war, of which by the end of 1918 over 62,000 soldiers sadly died.

In 1997 Governor- General Sir William Deane issues a proclamation formally declaring 11th of November to be Remembrance Day. This day encourages all Australians to pause for a minute's silence to remember all the men and women of the Australian Defence Force who made the ultimate sacrifice.

For many veterans and their families this time can be difficult. If you know anyone that requires support or assistance, please contact

Open Arms: Veterans and Families Counselling (24 Hours): 1800 011 046

Lifeline Australia: 13 11 14

Beyond Blue 1300 224 636

EVENTS AND WEBINARS

**YOU CAN NOW WATCH
OUR PREVIOUS VIDEOS
AND WEBINARS
FROM BELOW LINKS,**

- ⇒ **General Skilled Migration Australia - Current Outlook**
- ⇒ **Business Visa to Australia (English Session)**
- ⇒ **Business Visa to Australia (Sinhala Session)**
- ⇒ **Business Migration pathways to Australia**
- ⇒ **Introducing the Sanji Caldera Education foundation**
- ⇒ **Get your PR in Australia with employer sponsored visa? How would an employer-sponsored visa help you achieve your Australian permanent residency?**
- ⇒ **Are you skilled and lacking in work experience? How can 407 training visa help you?**
- ⇒ **Discover much more about 482 subclass**
- ⇒ **How do you apply for permanent residency in Australia?**
- ⇒ **New Budget announcement 2021**



The information contained within this newsletter is to provide advice of a general nature only and is not to be taken as individual advice for your personal circumstances. Information provided is subject to change at any time, and before proceeding with an application you should seek professional personalized advice about your circumstances.

We cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions. Because Australian immigration law and regulations change regularly, it is best to contact us before making any decisions. Alternatively, up to date information can be checked on the website of the Department of Home Affairs (DHA).

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