

MONTHLY IMMIGRATION BULLETIN

The latest immigration news, views and announcements

IN THIS ISSUE

485 - GRADUATE STREAM CHANGES
FROM 01/07/2023

CHANGES TO MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS
FROM 01 JULY 2023

WORK RESTRICTIONS FOR STUDENT VISA
HOLDERS

SUBCLASS 485 TEMPORARY GRADUATE
VISA EXTENSIONS

TRA - REINTRODUCTION OF
PROVISIONAL SKILLS ASSESSMENTS

VETASSESS UPDATES

INCREASED TIME TO OBTAIN NEW
SPONSOR FOR SUBCLASS 482 VISA
HOLDERS

STATE AND TERRITORY UPDATES

FASTER PROCESSING TIMES FOR
SPOUSAL APPLICANTS

IRCC APPROVES 4 NEW ENGLISH
LANGUAGE TESTS FOR STUDENT DIRECT
STREAM

FEDERAL COURT RULES IRCC CAN REFUSE
CANADIAN STUDY PERMIT
APPLICATIONS DUE TO LOW GRADES

EXPRESS ENTRY TARGETS
CATEGORY-BASED DRAWS



NO MINIMUM INCOME REQUIREMENT FOR SUBCLASS 191 VISA

The Permanent Residence (Skilled Regional) visa subclass 191 in the Regional Provisional Stream is the pathway to Permanent Residence for eligible holders of the Skilled Work Regional (Provisional) (subclass 491) and Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) (subclass 494) visas.

There is no minimum income requirements for the Permanent Residence (Skilled Regional) visa (subclass 191). Primary applicants must provide notices of assessment issued by the [Australian Taxation Office \(ATO\)](#) for three income years out of the five years of their eligible visa. Primary applicants who have already lodged should check and ensure their application provides these three notices.

485 - GRADUATE STREAM CHANGES

- Have a qualification relevant to an occupation on the skilled occupation list (Note: this is not required for applications lodged between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023)
- Have applied for a skills assessment in your nominated occupation on the skilled occupation list (Note: this is not required for applications lodged between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023)



CHANGES TO MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS FROM 01 JULY 2023

From 1 July 2023, urine tests will no longer form part of the medical examination. We will require a blood test to be undertaken instead. Applicants aged 15 years or older, who have not completed their medical examinations prior to 1 July 2023, will be required to undertake a blood test. We will no longer require children between the ages of 5 and 14 years old to undertake urine or blood tests unless clinically indicated.



WORK RESTRICTIONS FOR STUDENT VISA HOLDERS

Student visa work restrictions were relaxed throughout the pandemic, and completely removed in January 2022 to allow primary and secondary student visa holders to work over their normal limit of 40 hours per fortnight to address workforce shortages.

The Australian Government has announced that student visa holders already working in the aged care sector on 9 May 2023 can continue to work unrestricted hours in the aged care sector until 31 December 2023.

From 1 July 2023, work restrictions for all other student visa holders will be re-introduced and capped at the increased rate of 48 hours per fortnight. This ensures that student visa holders are able to focus on obtaining a quality Australian education and qualification, while remaining able to support themselves financially, gain valuable work experience, and contribute to Australia's workforce needs.





SUBCLASS 485 TEMPORARY GRADUATE VISA EXTENSIONS

From 1 July 2023 the stay in Australia for SC 485 holders with 'select degrees', will be extended by two years:

- From two years to four years for select Bachelor degrees
- From three years to five years for select Masters degrees

from four years to six years for all Doctoral degrees.

These select degrees are across medicine, health care, engineering and information technology and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

For first Subclass 485 (Temporary Graduate) applications

lodged from 1 July 2023, an additional period of two years will be added to the standard visa period. Eligible applicants applying, from 1 July 2023, for a Temporary Graduate visa in the Replacement stream, or in the Post-Study Work stream on the basis of study and residence in regional Australia, will also be granted the additional two years, if it has not been provided on a previous Temporary Graduate visa. An additional Temporary Graduate visa in the Post-Study Work stream will be available at no cost, for eligible visa holders who have not previously been provided with the extended visa duration on a previous Temporary Graduate visa.

TRA - REINTRODUCTION OF PROVISIONAL SKILLS ASSESSMENTS

From 1 July 2023, the Job Ready Program Registration and Eligibility (JRPRE) will cease to be part of the JRP and will no longer be available on the TRA Online Portal.

Instead, the Provisional Skills Assessment (PSA) program will be reintroduced and replace the JRPRE. The PSA will be a separate program to the JRP while remaining a pre-requisite for the JRP. The PSA will be available on the TRA Online Portal from 1 July 2023.



TRA Skills Assessment

VETASSESS UPDATES

New trade qualifications

From 3 July 2023, all new applicants in the occupations of Chef and Cook who successfully complete a skills assessment under Pathway 1 will receive the most recent qualifications:

- Chef (Commercial Cookery) will receive the SIT40521 Certificate IV in Kitchen Management
- Chef (Asian Cookery) will receive the SIT40821 Certificate IV in Asian Cookery
- Cook (Commercial Cookery) will receive the SIT30821 Certificate III in Commercial Cookery
- Cook (Asian Cookery) will receive the SIT31121 Certificate III in Asian Cookery.



Updated advice on processes for Pathway 1 trade applicants

From 3 July 2023, new Pathway 1 applicants in non-licensed trades will need to provide additional documentary, video and photo evidence with their Documentary Evidence Assessment application. This change is part of our continuous work to review and improve our processes and will contribute to a more robust assessment of applicants' skills and experience.

Temporary Graduate (Subclass 485) visas

Last year the Australian Government announced it would suspend the requirement for a Skills Assessment for Temporary Graduate (Subclass 485) visas. The suspension came into effect on July 1, 2022 and was for a year. The Government restored the requirement from this July 1 and we will resume conducting assessments of qualifications for the Temporary Graduate (Subclass 485) visa from that date.

Important note: Applicants who hold Bachelor degrees, or higher degrees, also have access to the Post-Study Work stream of the Temporary Graduate Visa (subclass 485) which does not require applicants to nominate an occupation or obtain a skills assessment.



INCREASED TIME TO OBTAIN NEW SPONSOR FOR SUBCLASS 482 VISA

Currently the employee has 60 days from the date they finish working with the current employer to find another approved sponsor to nominate them. But the Government may implement the changes for *People working on Temporary Skilled Shortage visas will have six months instead of 60 days to be without an employer.* Also that during this period they will have work rights.

STATE AND TERRITORY UPDATES

Australian Capital Territory



- Next invitation round will be held before 14 July 2023
- ACT Nomination Guidelines, Critical Skills List and Invitation Ranking
- Business Innovation and Investment Program (BIIP) closed for this financial year

South Australia



- GSM (ROI, 491 and 190 and BIIP) programs closed to new applications as of 8 June 2023. Any applications that have commenced by not lodged before 8 June 2023 will be deleted from the system.
- Existing applications that have been lodged before 8 June 2023 will continue to be assessed.
- Pending an allocation of 190 nominations from the Commonwealth Government for the 2023-24 program year, applicants who are assessed as eligible for 190 state nominations will receive a nomination in the upcoming program year.
- Announcement of GSM program closure for this financial year

Victoria



- VIC state nomination program is now closed to Registrations of Interest (ROI). Submitted ROI will continue to be assessed and selected for invitations to apply for Victorian visa nomination.
- If a ROI is withdrawn, applications will not be able to submit a new one until the 2023-24 program opens.

New South Wales



- State nomination program appears to remain open
- RDA program being closed for the financial year

Queensland



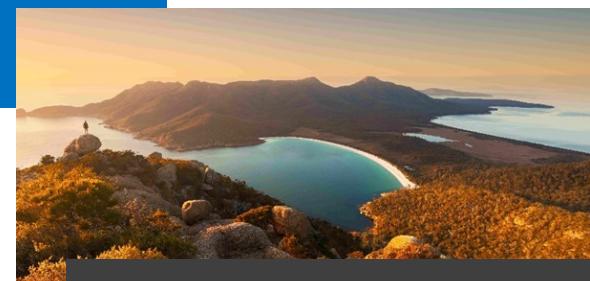
- State nomination program appears to remain open

Northern Territory



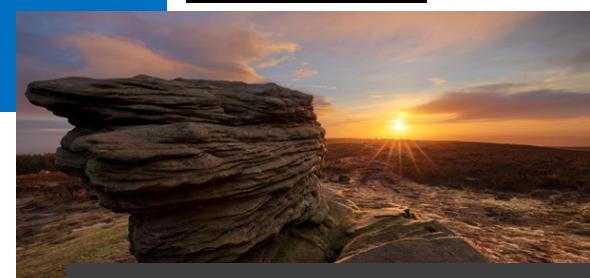
- New offshore GSM nomination criteria

Tasmania



- State nomination program appears to remain open

Western Australia



- State nomination program appears to remain open

FASTER PROCESSING TIMES FOR SPOUSAL APPLICANTS

On May 26, Immigration Minister Sean Fraser announced several new measures to help expedite the reunification of families. The new measures include:

- Faster temporary resident visa (TRV) processing times for spousal applicants.
- New and dedicated processing tools for spousal TRV applicants.
- A new open work permit for spousal and family class applicants.
- Open work permit extensions for open work permit holders expiring between August 1st and the end of 2023.

This includes family sponsorship applicants, and the approach has an approval rate of more than 98% for spousal TRV applications for spouses and their children.

The minister said that the backlog of TRV (visitor) visas for spouses of applicants who have already applied for permanent resident status has been eliminated. Further, in the future, most of these types of applications will carry a service standard of 30 days and applicants will benefit from processing measures specific to their circumstances as spouses and dependents.



IRCC APPROVES 4 NEW ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTS FOR STUDENT DIRECT STREAM

Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has just announced that it will accept language test results from four new tests for Student Direct Stream (SDS) applicants.

IRCC will begin to accept test results from these four new tests effective August 10, 2023.

The newly eligible tests are:

- CELPIP General - Test results must show at least 7 each on all four components.
- CAEL - Test results must show a minimum score of 60.
- PTE Academic - Test results must show a minimum score of 60.
- TOEFL iBT Test - Test results must show a minimum score of 83.

All test results must demonstrate abilities in speaking, listening, reading, and writing.



FEDERAL COURT RULES IRCC CAN REFUSE CANADIAN STUDY PERMIT APPLICATIONS DUE TO LOW GRADES

The Federal Court has ruled that it is reasonable for an Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) visa officer to refuse a study permit application if the applicant has low grades from a previous program of study in "core courses" or "core subjects" that are related to their intended program of study in Canada.



EXPRESS ENTRY TARGETS CATEGORY-BASED DRAWS

On May 31, Immigration Minister Sean Fraser announced which categories will be targeted in the category-based Express Entry draws that are expected to begin this summer.

The category-based draws will happen along with the general draws and the program-specific draws. In general draws, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) invites the highest-ranking candidates to apply for permanent residence. In program-specific draws, invitations are limited to the highest-ranking candidates by program.

In the new category-based draws, IRCC will invite the highest-ranking candidates who have a high proficiency in French, or who have work experience in any of the following areas:

- Healthcare
- Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) professions
- Trades, such as carpenters, plumbers, and contractors
- Transport
- Agriculture and agri-food



WEBINARS

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OUR PREVIOUS
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FROM BELOW
LINKS,

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- ⇒ **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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