

# Australia Skilled Independent (Sub-Class 189) Visa

If you're a skilled worker looking to emigrate to Australia then you may be able to apply for a Skilled Independent (Sub-Class 189) Visa. This visa allows successful applicants to live and work in Australia as a permanent resident, providing they are able to pass a points-based test and their profession is listed on the Skilled Occupations list (SOL). There is no requirement for applicants to be sponsored by an employer or family member in order to apply for this visa but you must have lived in Australia for two years and worked in your chosen occupation for at least 12 months.

## Applying for the Skilled – Independent Visa (subclass 189)

In order to submit a valid application for Visa (Sub-class 189) you first need to create an expression of interest on skillselect. This is an on-line service that helps Australia regulate who is allowed to enter the country. If you match the required criteria, you will then be invited to apply for the visa providing you have first passed the points-based test and taken a skills assessment with the relevant assessing authority for your chosen occupation.

[Check your eligibility for Australia PR visa](#)

Applicants applying for a Skilled Independent Visa should also be under 50 years of age and have a fairly good grasp of the English language. You also need to have formal professional qualifications in your nominated occupation from a recognised Australian institution or international equivalent. You will

be awarded additional points depending on your highest level of education. For example if you have a doctorate you will gain 20 points. If you have a bachelor's degree you will be awarded 15 and so on. You will need to have worked in your chosen occupation for at least a year before applying.

## **Australian Skilled Visa Process & Processing Times**

The processing times for Australian visas differ depending on which one you're applying for. Processing is broken into 5 groups in order of priority, with group 1 being the fastest. Visa (Sub-class 189) falls under band four and will take around 3 months to process.

**Check your Eligibility for Australian Highly Skilled Visa?**