

GUIDE TO STUDENT VISAS

The Commonwealth Government of Australia requires all students participating in an international student study program in Australia to have a student visa. This guide assists international students in knowing how to apply for a student visa.

1. How do I get accepted into a course with Equinim College as an international student?

Check the Enrolment Guide for International Students for details. One of the requirements is to have a student visa. This guide helps you with that.

2. What is a student visa?

A student visa is a subclass 500 visa that allows you to study in Australia in an international program.

3. Can I apply for a student visa before I travel to Australia?

Yes you can. The Department of Home Affairs has advised it is issuing student visas in all locations. This means that students are allowed to travel as soon as borders re-open and it is safe to do so. Please check the Australian Government's website for the most up-to-date information and advice (<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500>).

4. When should I apply?

Once you have accepted your offer from Equinim College and received your Confirmation of Enrolment, you should apply for your student visa, even if there are border restrictions in place at the time – because visa processing times can vary. After your student visa is granted, you will be able to travel to Australia, subject to border restrictions at the time, in order to commence your course.

5. How do I get a Confirmation of Enrolment?

In order to complete your enrolment acceptance and confirm and complete your enrolment, you will need to pay your tuition fee deposit and provide evidence of your Overseas Student Health Cover (“**OSHC**”) for the duration of your course. All requirements are set out for you in the Enrolment Guide for International Students. You are required to submit your Confirmation of Enrolment as part of your application to the Australian Government for a student visa.

6. How long does a student visa application take to process?

Information on processing times is available here: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/global-visa-processing-times>

7. What are the COVID-19 and vaccination requirements for coming to Australia?

See the Guide to COVID-19 and entry into Australia-International Students.

8. Can I work on a student visa?

Yes you are allowed to work on a student visa. The Australian Government has relaxed the work requirements (limits) in relation to student visas. See this government web page for more information:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/news-media/archive/article?itemId=813>.

9. Once I have my visa, can I extend it if I haven't finished my course?

Visas have an “expiry date”. They cannot be extended beyond that date. However, if you have a valid reason why you require longer to finish your course, you may be able to apply for a new student visa. See the Guide to Renewing your Student Visa.

10. While I am studying, can I return overseas to study or have leave of absence?

You need to check the terms of your student visa.

You also need to check any possible restrictions that apply, for instance Australian border control restrictions which may prevent you from returning to Australia and to campus.

You also need to check the terms and conditions of your currently enrolled course. Some courses are able to be studied overseas online, because they do not have mandatory on-campus requirements. If you have any questions about this, you are welcome to call our Team on 1800 338 883 or email us at team@equinimcollege.com.

11. What if I need to contact the Department of Home Affairs?

If you have a query for the Department of Home Affairs, you can contact them via this webpage: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-and-support/contact-us>

12. Ongoing support

Throughout your course, we are here to support you in every way we can to enjoy your studies in Australia. Contact us at any time – we love hearing from you.

T: 1800 338 883

E: team@equinimcollege.com

W: www.equinimcollege.com