

Temporary Residence

Temporary Activity Visa Subclass 408

Overview

The Temporary Activity Visa, Subclass 408 allows people to be sponsored to come to Australia on a temporary basis for work.

The streams based on the activity type in this visa subclass are:

- Invited Participant in an event (social/cultural)
- Sporting activities
- Religious Work
- Domestic Work for Executives
- Super yacht Crew
- Research activities
- Staff Exchange arrangements
- Special Programmes
- Entertainment activities
- Australian Government Endorsed Events

Once granted, the visa holder can stay in Australia and work in an area that aligns with the activity type under which the visa was approved. The visa is generally granted for the period of activity and can be granted for up to two years other than the Invited Participant type which can only be granted up to three months and the Australian Government endorsed event activity which can be granted for up to four years. Please also note that the 408 visa lodged under the superyacht crew and special program activity are usually granted for up to 12 months only.

It is possible to bring family members however; they should be included in the visa application even if they will only come at a later stage. Family members may have limited work rights under this visa subclass.

The Application Process

Sponsors and visa applicants will need to meet the requirements of the specific activity stream in which they apply. The Subclass 408 visa process generally involves two stages:

1. Sponsorship application; and
2. Visa application.

Please note this new visa subclass also removes the sponsorship requirement for applicants who apply from outside Australia and who seek a stay of up to three months. They will instead need to show that a lawfully operating organization in Australia who is responsible for a particular event or activity has invited them to perform the temporary activity.

The requirement for sponsors who previously had to complete a nomination (Eg; Entertainment Visa) in relation to sponsored visa applicants have also been removed for all (except Occupational training stream of the subclass 407 visa).

Step 1: Sponsorship application

An organization must first become an approved 'Temporary Activities Sponsor'. A sponsorship application along with the supporting documents needs to be lodged at the Department of Home Affairs. Once approved, the sponsorship is valid for up to five years. This means that one can sponsor

as many individuals under this visa category during the sponsorship validity. As an approved sponsor one must comply with the sponsorship obligations.

Step 2: Visa application

This application relates to the individual, who would need to demonstrate that they satisfy the prescribed visa criteria, including age, skill, competency, health and character.

Visa applicants must meet general visa requirements, such as:

1. be 18 years or older (exempt in limited circumstances),
2. have a genuine intention to stay in Australia temporarily,
3. have adequate health insurance for the duration of their stay in Australia (not required if the stay is less than three months)
4. are able to support themselves (and accompanying family members) financially, and
5. meet health and character requirements.

Visa applicants must also meet additional visa requirements which are specific to their nominated activity, for example:

1. Entertainment - The applicant will need to demonstrate that they have the experience and or skills as required.
2. Invited participant - they need to be invited by an Australian organization to perform in a social cultural event which is directly organized by the inviting organisation
3. Research - for academics invited to observe or participate in an Australian research project at an Australian tertiary or research institution, they need to show that they are employed as an academic, have significant record or achievements in their field

Processing Time

The Department's service standard for processing Subclass 408 visa applications is up to 8 to 12 weeks from the date of lodgement of a decision ready application (however, this can vary).

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