



**Education**

## **Proof of Identity and Residency Status**

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**Proof of Australian citizenship and  
Proof of identity and residency status for  
non-Australian citizens**

# PROOF OF IDENTITY AND RESIDENCY STATUS

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## INTRODUCTION

This document provides information on the ways in which schools can broadly establish the citizenship status of those claiming to be Australian citizens as well as the identity and residency status of non-Australian citizens, both permanent and temporary residents.

This document must be read in conjunction with the following Department of Education policy and implementation documents:

- [\*Enrolment of Students in New South Wales Government Schools: A Summary and Consolidation of Policy.\*](#)
- [\*Procedures and Eligibility for the Enrolment of non-Australian Citizens\*](#)
- [\*Schedule of Visa Subclasses and Enrolment Conditions\*](#)
- [\*Temporary Residents Program: Application form for an Authority to Enrol.\*](#)

## 1. AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP

- 1.1 Most people born in Australia before 26 January 1949 became Australian citizens on that day. Between that date and 19 August 1986, a child born in Australia automatically became an Australian citizen, unless a parent was a foreign diplomat or consular official.
- 1.2 If a child was born in Australia after 20 August 1986 and at least one parent was an Australian citizen or permanent resident at the time of the birth, then the child is an Australian citizen.
- 1.3 If neither parent is an Australian citizen or a permanent resident at the time of birth, a child born in Australia after 20 August 1986 does not become an Australian citizen at birth but may become an Australian citizen on their 10<sup>th</sup> birthday if the child has been ordinarily resident in Australia for those 10 years. The child may apply for evidence of his/her Australian citizenship.
- 1.4 A child who is a permanent resident and who is legally adopted in Australia after 22 November 1984 acquires Australian citizenship automatically when adopted if at least one adoptive parent is an Australian citizen at the time. The child may apply for evidence of his/her Australian citizenship.
- 1.5 A child adopted overseas by an Australian citizen must apply to become an Australian citizen.
- 1.6 People born overseas to a parent who is an Australian citizen may apply for Australian citizenship by descent.
- 1.7 Further information is available on the Department of Immigration & Border Protection webpage at [www.border.gov.au](http://www.border.gov.au) or by contacting the Department's Citizenship Information line on 131 880.

## 2. PROOF OF IDENTITY AND RESIDENCY STATUS FOR NON-AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS

- 2.1 Non-Australian citizens applying to enrol in NSW Government schools must provide travel documentation to confirm their identity and the right to reside in Australia.
- 2.2 Travel documentation will usually include a passport from an overseas country and a visa issued by the Department of Immigration & Border Protection.
- 2.3 A visa may be evidenced in the form of a letter from the Department of Immigration & Border Protection or a printout from Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO). [VEVO](#) is the online service offered by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection to view visa details. **Sample visa documents are shown in Section 4.**
- 2.4 Visa details include the holder's name, visa class, visa subclass, visa name, visa grant date, visa expiry date and visa conditions (if applicable). The visa subclass number appears as a three digit number.
- 2.5 The principal visa holder is shown by the letter 'P'. Dependants may have their own passport or they may be included on their parent's passport. Dependants who are listed on a parent's passport are generally subject to the same visa conditions as the parent. Dependants with their own passport will normally hold the same visa subclass as their parent with the letter 'S' instead of a 'P'.
- 2.6 Some visas are not evidenced with a letter. These include electronic visas applied for through the Department of Immigration & Border Protection's online services as well as APEC Business Travel Cards and visas issued to military personnel and their dependants under the Status of Forces Agreement. Evidence of the visa varies. Examples are shown in Section 3.
- 2.7 In some cases, individuals will not have a passport or evidence of a visa and instead will have other official travel documentation issued by another country or by the Department of Immigration & Border Protection (DIBP) showing the person's identity and residency status.
- 2.8 Travel documentation for eligible Illegal Maritime Arrivals will usually include an ImmiCard issued by the Department of Immigration & Border Protection.
- 2.9 The Evidence of Immigration Status (EIS) ImmiCard is issued to Illegal Maritime Arrivals who have generally been granted a temporary visa (subclass 050, 051, 070, 449, 785, 786 or 790) that allows the holder to remain in the community until their immigration status is resolved.

### 2.9.1 Sample of EIS ImmiCard



2.10 The Residence Determination (RDI) ImmiCard is issued to immigration detainees accommodated in the community who are non-visaed non-citizens.

2.10.1 Sample of RDI ImmiCard



2.11 The Permanent Resident Evidence (PRE) ImmiCard is issued to Illegal Maritime Arrivals who have been granted a permanent resident visa.

2.11.1 Sample of PRE ImmiCard



2.12 The Australian Migration Status (AMS) ImmiCard is issued to Refugee and Special Humanitarian Program visa holders, who do not have a passport recognised by the Australian Government

2.12.1 Sample of AMS ImmiCard



### 3. EVIDENCE OF VISAS AND OTHER TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

#### 3.1 Arrival stamp

- 3.1.1 An arrival stamp such as the one below indicates the date the visa holder arrived in Australia. It is not a permanent visa.



- 3.1.2 From February 2007, certain non-citizens who are immigration cleared using an automated border processing system will no longer receive an arrival stamp in their passport. If the non-citizen requires proof of the date of their arrival, they are able to obtain this from a DIBP office or by lodging a request under the Commonwealth Freedom of Information Act 1982.

#### 3.2 Permanent residents, New Zealand citizens and Norfolk islanders

- 3.2.1 Australian permanent residency can be proved by citing a visa letter or a VEVO printout from the Department of Immigration & Border Protection. A permanent visa states 'permitted to remain in Australia indefinitely' on the visa. For details on the range of permanent resident visas, refer to the Department of Immigration & Border Protection website: [www.border.gov.au](http://www.border.gov.au).
- 3.2.2 New Zealand citizens entering Australia must hold a current New Zealand passport. The majority of New Zealand citizens will be granted a Special Category visa (Class TY subclass 444) upon arrival. Any visa issued to a New Zealand citizen may be evidenced by a [VEVO](#) printout.
- 3.2.3 New Zealand residents, other than New Zealand citizens entering Australia from New Zealand, have their conditions for enrolment determined according to the passport and visa subclass.
- 3.2.4 Norfolk Islanders should have a passport (which may be an Australian or New Zealand passport) containing a Norfolk Island permanent resident stamp. A Norfolk Island permanent resident entering Australia has been granted visa Class AW Subclass 834.

### 3.3 Temporary residents

- 3.3.1 The major types of temporary visas are employment related visas, student visas, family and relationship visas, visitor visas and bridging visas. All visas except bridging visas, criminal justice visas and enforcement visas are substantive visas. Temporary residency can be proved by looking at a visa letter from the Department of Immigration & Border Protection or [VEVO](#) printout.
- 3.3.2 The specific category of visa is determined by the visa subclass, which appears as a three digit number. Information on the range of temporary resident visas is available on the Department of Immigration & Border Protection website: [www.border.gov.au](http://www.border.gov.au).
- 3.3.3 Conditions of enrolment in Government schools for students holding temporary visas vary depending on the type of visa held. For more information, refer to the [Schedule of Visa Subclasses and Enrolment Conditions](#).
- 3.3.4 Employment related visas include:
- employer sponsored workers
  - professionals and other skilled migrants
  - business people
  - regional employment visas
- 3.3.5 Student visas include:
- international (overseas full fee paying) students in schools, universities and other tertiary institutions
  - dependants of international students
  - exchange students
  - student guardians and their dependants
- 3.3.6 Family and relationship visas include visas for partners, spouses, children and other family relationships.
- 3.3.7 Visitor visas include visas issued to a variety of short stay visitors, including those arriving for tourism, business, family or medical treatment purposes.
- 3.3.8 Bridging visas are temporary visas granted by the Department of Immigration & Border Protection (DIBP) to individuals when they submit an application for another visa or in certain circumstances where they do not hold a substantive visa. Without a lawful visa persons may be subject to immigration detention. Bridging visas come into effect when the substantive visa has expired and usually remain in effect until a decision has been made by DIBP about the visa application. Under DIBP regulations, the conditions of the previous substantive visa apply to the bridging visa.

### 3.4 Electronic visas

- 3.4.1 [Visa Entitlement Verification Online \(VEVO\)](#) is an online service provided by the Department of Immigration & Border Protection allowing individuals and eligible organisations to access visa status information. The [VEVO](#) printout includes details of the visa subclass, the visa expiry date and the visa conditions. See sample at section 4.2.
- 3.4.2 Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) is a visa issued electronically to visitors or temporary business residents from certain countries. Details of the visa only exist in DIBP computer records. The holder should have a VEVO printout or a separate paper issued by DIBP confirming details of the ETA.
- 3.4.3 An eVisa is a visa that was applied for through the DIBP internet based eVisa system. Holders of an eVisa will, in most cases, have been emailed an approval letter from DIBP. The holder should have a VEVO printout or a separate paper issued by DIBP confirming details of the eVisa.



## 4. SAMPLES OF VISA DOCUMENTS

### 4.1 Sample of a Visa Letter



Australian Government

Department of Immigration and Border Protection

23 September 2015

John SMITH  
1 BACK ST  
OTTAWA OTTAWA C1D 2E3  
CANADA

**In reply please quote:**

Client Name	John SMITH
Date of Birth	01 January 1990
Date of Visa Application	23 August 2015
Application ID	435500450
File Number	BCC2015/967
Transmission Method	Email sent to john.smith@email.com

Dear John SMITH

**Notification of grant of a Student (Temporary) (class TU) Higher Education Sector (subclass 573) visa**

I wish to advise that a decision has been made on this application and visas have been granted on 23 September 2015 to the applicant(s) listed in the attached Visa Grant Notice, which contains important information about your visa(s).

Please keep a copy of this letter and the Visa Grant Notice in a safe place for your reference.

**Please note:** if your application contained multiple applicants, each applicant that has been granted a visa will be sent their own Visa Grant Notice. Any other applicants should not make arrangements to travel to Australia unless they have received their own Visa Grant Notice.

The date on this notification, and the date of visa grant, are according to Australian Eastern Standard Time [UTC +10] (incorporating Daylight Saving Time [UTC +11], if applicable) on the relevant day. Depending on your location, these dates may differ by one day from your local date and may be in the future. Despite this, your Australian visa is already in effect - there is no need to delay travel to Australia until the commencement of the later day.

**Questions about this decision**

If you have questions about this decision, or the process or information that was taken into account, you may contact us by any of the means listed below.

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Australian Consulate-General, Shanghai  
OFFICE: 31st Floor CITIC Square 1168 Nanjing West Road Shanghai 200041  
POSTAL: 31st Floor CITIC Square 1168 Nanjing West Road Shanghai 200041  
PHONE: 021 2225 1300 EMAIL: immigration.shanghai@dfat.gov.au WEBSITE: www.border.gov.au, www.china.embassy.gov.au

## 4.2 Sample of a VEVO printout



Australian Government  
Department of Immigration  
and Border Protection

### Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO) Entitlement Check

This document contains the result of a Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO) Entitlement Check and is valid as at Friday September 25, 2015 11:35:50 (EST) Canberra, Australia (GMT +1000).

**Please note: VEVO Entitlement Checks are only current at the time conducted and should only be considered valid when received directly from the VEVO system.**

#### Important information about VEVO

A VEVO check shows the visa status and entitlements associated with a particular visa holder, such as work or study rights.

**VEVO does not provide evidence of the identity of a person.** Always sight the passport or the identity document, such as ImmiCard, that was used by the visa holder for the VEVO Entitlement Check, to confirm their identity and ensure that it matches the details shown below.

#### Important information for employers

Non-citizens who do not have a valid visa, or the necessary work conditions associated with their visa, are not permitted to work in Australia.

If you hire or refer for work non-citizens who don't have the right to work, you face serious penalties including fines and/or imprisonment.

For more information about employing legal workers, go to: <http://www.border.gov.au/Busi/Empl/Empl/employing-legal-workers>

#### Want to know more about VEVO?

For more information about VEVO, go to: <http://www.border.gov.au/Busi/Visa>

Please note: visa holders are not required to have a visa label in their passport for travel to, or stay in, Australia.

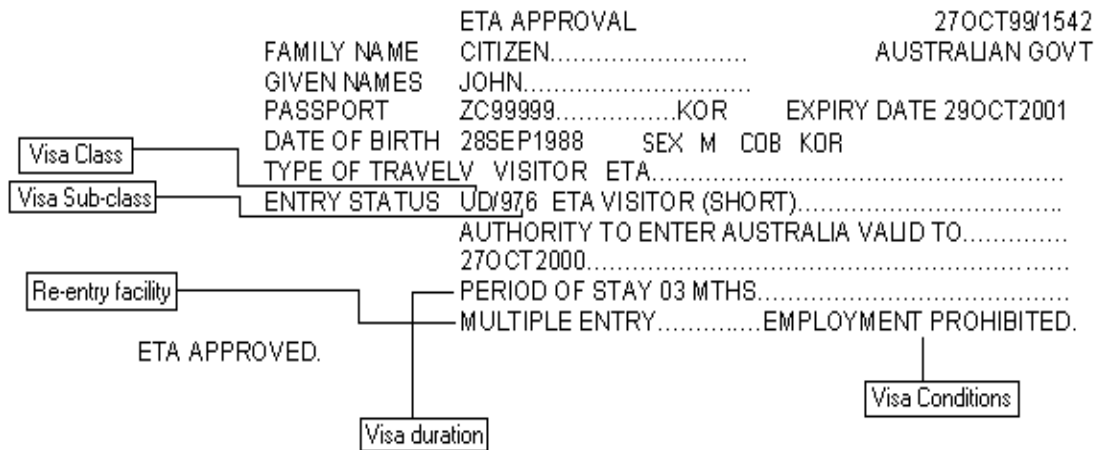
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### Entitlement Check Result

Valid as at Friday September 25, 2015 11:35:50 (EST) Canberra, Australia (GMT +1000)

Category selected	Study entitlements
Passport / ImmiCard number	QG216858
Visa class / subclass	UC / 457
Visa grant date	24 April 2015
Visa expiry date	24 April 2019
Location	Onshore
Visa type	Temporary resident
Study condition(s)	No limitations on study.

### 4.3 Sample of an Electronic Travel Authority



## 5. CONTACTS

### **DE International Temporary Residents Program**

Locked Bag 7004  
Wollongong NSW 2520  
Australia  
Telephone: +61 1300 300 229  
Fax: +61 2 4224 9074  
Email: [tempvisa@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:tempvisa@det.nsw.edu.au)  
Web: [www.internationalschool.edu.au/trp](http://www.internationalschool.edu.au/trp)

### **DE International International Student Program**

Locked Bag 53  
Darlinghurst NSW 1300  
Australia  
Telephone: +61 1300 300 229  
Fax: +61 2 8293 6928  
Email: [isc@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:isc@det.nsw.edu.au)  
Web: [www.internationalschool.edu.au](http://www.internationalschool.edu.au)

### **Equity**

Locked Bag 53  
Darlinghurst NSW 1300  
Australia  
Telephone: +61 2 9244 5533  
Fax: +61 2 9244 5381  
Email: [Multicultural.Programs@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Multicultural.Programs@det.nsw.edu.au)  
Web: [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/yrk12focusareas/multiculted/index.php](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/yrk12focusareas/multiculted/index.php)