

## WORK EXPERIENCE AND TEMPORARY WORK IN AUSTRALIA

The following is a guide to finding work experience and temporary work in Australia, covering:

- [applying for a visa](#)
- [work experience opportunities](#)
- [finding and applying for work experience](#)
- [engineering work experience](#)
- [other useful sources of information](#)



## APPLYING FOR A VISA

### Working Holiday Visa

Before you can undertake any work experience in Australia, you will need to apply for and secure a [Working Holiday Visa \(Subclass 417\)](#) while you are in the UK.

The Working Holiday Visa allows you to:

- stay in Australia for up to 12 months
- undertake any type of work; there are no restrictions on the job role you take
- work up to 6 months for the same employer
- work for more than one employer at a time (as long as each employment doesn't exceed 6 months)
- study for up to 4 months
- leave and re-enter Australia any number of times while the visa is valid

There is no minimum time you need to spend working whilst on this visa. For example, you could work for a couple of months and then travel and explore the country. There is also no obligation to stay in Australia for the whole 12 months.

### Eligibility

You must:

- be at least 18 but not yet 31 years of age
- have a passport from an eligible country
- not have a dependent child accompanying you at any time during your stay

### How to apply

The Working Holiday Visa costs approximately £250 and will take around 6 days to secure.

You can apply for the Working Holiday Visa via the [Department of Immigration and Border Protection \(DIPB\)](#). This can be done online through setting up an '[ImmiAccount](#)' or through a [paper application form](#).

If you decide that you want to extend your stay in Australia, you can apply for a [Second Working Holiday Visa](#) (also 12 months) while on your first Working Holiday Visa. To be eligible for this visa you need to have undertaken at least 3 months harvest work during your first Working Holiday Visa.

## WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITIES

There are three main types of work experience you can undertake on the Working Holiday Visa:

- casual work
- internships
- volunteering

### Casual work

Most in-demand casual work tends to be in the agriculture, hospitality and tourism sectors. Typical roles include:

- bar/kitchen/waiting staff
- farming/fruit picker/harvest work
- nannies/housekeepers/au pairs
- promotions/sales
- hotel/hostel staff
- labourer

### Internships

Available [internships](#) cover a wide range of sectors, particularly events management, publishing, media, IT and marketing.

Most internships range from 5 weeks to a maximum of 6 months, due to the Working Holiday Visa restrictions.

Internships are advertised all year round; however, some big companies (such as Facebook, Infosys Limited and RB) have application deadlines in July/August. Internships do not necessarily run between June-August as they do in the UK, instead, they frequently take place during January-March (Australian summer).

### Volunteering

Volunteering opportunities vary, but could involve sport and physical recreation, community, welfare or youth work. Unlike casual work and internships, you can volunteer with the same organisation for up to 12 months whilst on your Working Holiday Visa. For further information on volunteering overseas, see [Volunteering outside of the UK](#).

## FINDING AND APPLYING FOR WORK EXPERIENCE

Finding work experience in Australia is the same approach as in the UK.

### CVs

Make sure you have an up to date CV (resume). For guidance and examples of a typical Australian resume, have a look at the resources on the [University of New South Wales](#) and [GoinGlobal](#) (login required) websites. The Careers Service can provide feedback on your CV and application forms without an appointment via our [drop-in service](#). You'll need to bring a printed copy of your CV or application with you. We also run a range of [workshops](#) to help you with your applications and interviews.

### Advertised opportunities

You can use online recruitment sites to search for advertised opportunities for casual work, internships and volunteering posts.

## Casual Work

- [Backpacker job board](#)
- [Nomads world](#)
- [Workstay](#)
- [Jobaroo](#)

## Internships

- [AIESEC](#) - student organisation offering paid and voluntary placements. There is an application fee to view available placements
- [Top interns](#) - collates top reviewed internship programmes reviewed by undergraduate students
- [IAESTE](#) - work placements for engineering, science and architecture students; offer paid summer or year-long internships
- [Go abroad](#)
- [Ihipo](#)
- [Jobrapido](#)
- [Internjobs](#)
- [GoinGlobal](#)

Some employers, such as [HSBC](#), [Newcrest](#) and [Deloitte](#), offer internships for international students. Availability of the internships and the employers that offer them will vary each year.

## Volunteering

- University of Sydney – [list of voluntary organisations](#)
- [Seek](#)
- [Australian Council for International Development](#)
- [GoVolunteer](#)
- [Working abroad](#)

## Speculative applications

Not all work experience opportunities will be advertised; [research employers](#) that you are interested in applying to and make a [speculative application](#), ideally to a named contact. Be specific about why you are contacting them and what you're looking for, showing your enthusiasm for the sector and the employer, and highlighting any relevant skills. Don't be disheartened if you don't get a reply – follow up with an email to show that you're keen.

See the [Australian Chamber of Commerce](#) and [Forbes Australia](#) websites for lists of employers by sector as well as [Professional Associations](#) and the [Morningstar Datanalysis](#); a research tool for finding information on companies listed on the Australian Stock Exchange.

For more advice on approaching companies directly, see [TARGETjobs: Making speculative applications for graduate jobs](#).

## Placement companies

There are organisations that can source and place you onto a work experience programme for a placement fee, which can often be expensive, ranging from £500 to £8,000. So, along with the company fee, you will need to budget your living costs, accommodation, flights, visa application fee and insurance. Some organisations' fees may cover some of these, but you will need to check with the provider and research these organisations carefully before signing up. Some organisations offer assistance with job hunting, as well as giving support with your visa application and provide temporary accommodation on your arrival, but they also charge a fee.

## When should I apply?

You can apply for any of these opportunities from the UK or once you have arrived in Australia. However, most internships and volunteering programmes are arranged in advance, as there is often a formal application procedure or a strict start date. Big employers may have an application deadline in July-August. Internships do not necessarily run between June-August as in the UK; frequently taking place during January-March (Australian summer). You can apply for casual work at any time, however, employers frequently ask for an immediate start date, so it might be worth being in Australia while applying for jobs. Internships are very popular with international students, so time should be put in to securing an opportunity.

## Extra things to consider

To ensure you are paid and taxed properly, you will also need to secure an [Australian Tax File Number \(TFN\)](#).

If you want to undertake bar work, you will need to obtain a 'Responsible Service of Alcohol' (RSA) Certificate. The certificate can be obtained through eLearning online or through a one day training course. Costs are typically around \$70. Different states in Australia will have their own RSA certificate requirements, so check the State you want to work in before you book your certificate course. Further information can be found on [Jobaroo](#).

## ENGINEERING WORK EXPERIENCE

If you are a recent engineering graduate (within the last 2 years), you may be eligible to apply for the [Skilled-Recognised Graduate visa \(subclass 476\)](#). This visa allows recent engineering graduates to gain up to 18 months of relevant work experience.

Unlike other work experience opportunities, you can work with the same organisation for up to 18 months whilst on this visa.

### Eligibility

You must:

- be younger than 31 years of age
- have completed an engineering degree at a [recognised institution](#) in the past two years. (Newcastle University's engineering degrees are recognised)

### How to apply

You do not need employer sponsorship or to have secured employment before you apply. This can be organised after your visa application.

You can apply for the Skilled-Recognised Graduate Visa via the [Department of Immigration and Border Protection \(DIPB\)](#). This can be done online through setting up an '[ImmiAccount](#)' or through a [paper application form](#).

The cost for this visa is approximately £215. The processing time can take up to **7 months**, so start your application as far in advance as you can.

There are additional documents needed for this visa, so ensure that you check the document checklist. You will need to undertake a [health check](#), which can be done in advance of applying for the visa. You will also have to undergo a [police check](#), but you will be prompted to do this during your application at the relevant time.

## OTHER USEFUL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- [Department of Immigration & Border Control \(DIBP\)](#)
- [GoinGlobal](#) – covers internship resources, employment trends, top companies, social networking, finances, CV guidelines and cultural advice
- [STA guide](#) – top 10 tips for securing a job in Australia
- [Jobaroo](#) – extensive online resource covering Working Holiday Visas, guides on what to do before and after arrival, city guides, training, internship vacancies and job guides
- [Working in Australia](#) – comprehensive guide covering internships, visas, moving, living and settling.
- [TARGETJobs Australia](#) –overview of working in Australia
- Reference books available in the Careers Service:
  - Hampshire, D (2013) Living and Working in Australia
  - McCullum, S (2008) Australia: A Working Holiday and Gap Year Guide