

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – Skilled Students**

### **Q. What relative can sponsor me for the permanent visa (subclass 886?)**

**A.** A **relative** such as an Aunt, Uncle, Sister, Brother, Niece, Nephew or Parent can sponsor you as long as they hold Permanent Residency or Australian Citizenship. Note: the relative **must** be related by marriage, legal adoption or blood. You must also obtain 100 points on the points test.

Please note a grandparent and 1<sup>st</sup> cousin can also sponsor an application for a Temporary Residency visa if they are living in a *Designated Area* of Australia for at least 2 years. Any relatives that are **NOT** listed here CANNOT sponsor you. Please also note that a 'friend' or 'neighbour' who is not related to you cannot sponsor you for a GSM visa.

### **Q. How many hours of work experience do I need for Trades Recognition Australia?**

**A.** Applicants applying based on Australian qualifications (Certificate 3 or 4) require at least 900 hours of work experience in their field. At the moment this work experience can be paid or unpaid.

The 900 hours of work experience can only be counted if it were undertaken outside of your course (i.e. not part of the work that you do for your course or a requirement for you to complete your course.)

### **Q. Am I allowed to do 900 hours unpaid work experience for my PR or does it need to be paid?**

**A.** The 900 hours of work experience is a requirement for your skills assessment with Trades Recognition Australia only and can be paid or unpaid.

To obtain PR you must meet the pass mark on the points test which currently stands at 120 points for the Independent Skilled visa or 100 points for the Skilled Sponsored visa if you have a relative able to sponsor you.

### **Q. I have overseas work experience in my field how can this help?**

**A.** If you are applying for a GSM visa based on your Australian qualifications, this work experience **will not** count towards your points total for the purposes of your visa application as DIAC will not consider you to be 'working at a skilled level' until you have completed your Australian qualifications. If you would like to claim work experience points that work experience must be undertaken post qualification.

You may be able to count this work experience towards the 900 hour requirement for Trades Recognition Australia however it must be verifiable.



**Q. How long do I need to study in Australia to be eligible to apply for a visa based on my Australian qualifications?**

**A.** The requirement is that the main applicant undertakes 2 years (at least 92 weeks) of full time study in Australia. This requirement can consist of 2 courses where the applicant has under taken two CRICOS registered courses that make up the 92 weeks. If you are studying two courses, these courses must relate to each other.

**Q. Can I apply before I complete my studies or do I have to wait until I have completed my Australian qualifications?**

**A.** No. You **must** complete the required amount of study **before** you apply for your visa with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

**Q. Who can I include in my application?**

**A.** If you are applying for a subclass 485, 885 or 886 visa you can include your spouse and children if they are in Australia at the time the application is lodged and that they hold a valid and qualifying visa such as a student visa or be the dependent on your student visa.

**Q. I came in on a 573 (Higher Education) visa and not on a 572 (Vocational Education) visa. I am currently studying a Certificate III and Diploma course and do not want to continue on to a Bachelor degree. Do I have to go on to University after I complete my vocational course? Or do I have to change my visa subclass?**

The subclass 573 visa would have been granted on the basis that you would continue to study at a University level upon completion of your Certificate III and Diploma course.

You will need to advise the Department of Immigration that you no longer wish to proceed with the Degree **before** you complete of your Certificate III and Diploma. The Department of Immigration will then advise you of if they can change your visa subclass.

**Q. When should I start thinking about getting my paperwork ready for my visa application for the Department of Immigration?**

**A.** If you need to sit an IELTS test, you should book to sit a test **at least 6 months** before you are going to lodge the visa application to ensure you obtain the required results. You should begin organising your documents shortly after your test.



**Q. When I apply for PR does my family have to be in Australia**

**A.** Yes. All family members included in your onshore PR application must have also held a student visa within 6 months of the PR application being lodged.

**Q. How long does it take to fill out the paper work and get PR?**

**A.** This will depend on what occupation you have nominated and which category your application will fall under with the Department of Immigration's processing rules.

**Q. If I have not finished my one year paid work experience to meet the pass mark on the points test for PR, is there any way I can extend my visa to finish the paid work experience?**

**A.** This will depend on what visa you are on and will need to be assessed individually as it will depend on how many points you achieve on the points test.

**Q. If immigration changes the rules while I am studying what happens to me?**

**A.** This is something that is dependent on your own particular situation

**Q. Who can I contact if I have further questions?**

**A.** You are welcome to contact our office on 3212 2200 to arrange an appointment time with one of our Registered Migration Agents to discuss your options.

*Please note: Immigration Legislation changes are made very often in some cases quite suddenly therefore this FAQ sheet is only valid as of the 13th of October 2009 Please contact us for up to date legislation*