



This sheet provides information about lodging an application for a Student Visa in the Philippines.

For details of general requirements for student visas, please refer to the DIAC website.

See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/study/overview/index.htm>

For a step-by-step guide to the requirements for a student visa application.

See:
<http://www.immi.gov.au/students/students/chooser/index.htm>

When should I apply?

You need to apply at least **2 months** before the commencement of your intended course. If you do not apply well ahead of time, your visa may not be processed in time for you to commence your course.

What type of courses can I study?

Overseas students must study a CRICOS (Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students) course. Details of registered courses and education providers are available at: <http://cricos.detya.gov.au>.

If you are sponsored by AusAID or Defence or you are a secondary school exchange student, you are not required to enrol in a CRICOS course. However, you must be enrolled in a full time course of study or training.

What Student Visa can I apply for?

The main visa types and prescribed courses are:

VISA SUBCLASS	TYPES OF COURSE
570 Independent ELICOS (English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students) Sector	Non Award ELICOS
571 Schools Sector	Primary school Secondary/High School
572 Vocational Education and Training	Certificate I , II, III, IV Diploma Advanced Diploma Certificate Advanced Certificate Associate Diploma
573 Higher Education Sector	Bachelor's Degree Graduate Certificate Graduate Diploma Associate Degree Masters Coursework
574 Postgraduate Research Sector	Masters Research Doctoral Degree

575 Non-award sector	Full time courses other than ELICOS not leading to an Australian Award
576 AusAID or Defence Sector	AusAID or Defence Sector All full-time courses (whether CRICOS registered or not) undertaken by overseas students sponsored by Department of Defence and AusAID.

Package courses

It is also possible to do package courses comprising a preliminary enabling course (eg. a pre-requisite English language tuition, foundation or bridging course) followed by a principal course (eg. a Bachelor degree). You should apply under the visa subclass applicable to the principal course.

Subclass 580 Student Guardian Visa

Subclass 580 provides for certain persons (usually parents) to accompany a student requiring a guardian to Australia and to care for them there. Further information on applying for a student guardian visa can be found in Form 1234i from the DIAC website. See:

<http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/application-forms/index.htm>

Assessment Level

There are 5 Assessment Levels which determine the requirements for the grant of a Student visa. Assessment levels vary according to an applicant's country of nationality and the education sector of their intended study.

As of 14 May 2007, Philippine citizens are assessed under Assessment Level 3 for visa subclasses 570 (Independent ELICOS) and 572 (Vocational Education and Training) All other subclasses are assessed under Assessment Level 2.

If you are not a Philippine citizen, Information on Assessment Levels can be found on Form 1219i – Overseas Student Program – Assessment Levels. See:
<http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/application-forms/index.htm>

Assessment Level 1 students are eligible to apply for a student visa on the internet. Eligible applicants should go to www.immi.gov.au/e-visa/students.htm

Other Important Information

Assessment level 3, 4 and 5 students intending to study in Australia for ten (10) months or less are subject to the imposition of a "No Further Stay" condition on their visa.

Assessment level 3, 4 and 5 students intending to study in Australia for twelve (12) months or less are not eligible for their dependents to accompany them on a Student visa.

How to Apply?

1. Obtain forms and information - Download visa application form **157A** and Information Form **1160i** at <http://www.immi.gov.au/allforms/application-forms/index.htm> free of charge or obtain a copy either from the Visa Information and Application (VIA) Centre or the Call Centre (for the cost of a phone call and courier delivery).

2. Complete the application form - Read all the provided information. The visa applicant should complete and sign the visa application form. If you are under 18, Both your parents or your legal guardians will also need to sign the form unless you can provide evidence of sole custody.

3. Book an IELTS (International English Language Testing System) examination – Contact the British Council or IDP Australia to arrange an IELTS test. The visa applicant must have already undertaken the IELTS exam prior to lodgment of their visa. IELTS results must not be more than two (2) years old.

4. Undergo health examinations - The visa applicant and all dependants intending to travel with the visa applicant must undergo health checks using Form 160 and Form 26 with a Panel Doctor – no Embassy referral is necessary (see Info Sheet 06). Applicants may also undergo health checks after lodging their application, however early health checks speed up the expected visa processing time.

5. Gather all supporting documents (please refer to the Student Visa checklist). It is your responsibility to provide evidence that you meet the criteria for the grant of a visa. Incomplete applications may not be accepted.

6. Lodge an application - You should lodge your application either through the Call Centre or at the VIA Center.

The Call Center & Courier

Contact the Call Center to arrange for a courier to pick up your application and supporting documents, by using one of the following numbers:

1909-3622779 (PLDT/Smart/Touchcard subscribers)
1900-3622779 (Globe/Innove/Touch mobile subscribers)
1903-3622779 (BayanTel subscribers).

- These numbers are only available to telephones with NDD access, or by calling 109 on a PLDT phone for operator assisted connection. Calls will be billed at PhP 32 per minute.
- These numbers are available to Globe and Touch Handyphone mobiles at the same call rate.
- For access from Australia please call **63 2 843 6293**. Calls will be billed at a flat rate of AUD\$10.00. Payment can only be made by credit card.

The Call Center operates from 6am to 8pm from Monday to Friday and 8am to 6pm on Saturday.

The **VIA Center** is located at:

**Unit 1003, 9/F One Corporate Plaza
845 Antonio Arnaiz Ave (Pasay Rd)
Makati City.**

Opening hours for lodging applications are:

8:30m to 3pm, Monday to Friday and 8:30 to 12noon on Saturday

Please note that mailed applications cannot be accepted at the VIA Center.

Applications may also be lodged by mail to the Embassy or through a registered Migration Agent, however we do not recommend that clients forward personal documents, passports

and payment through the mail, as safe delivery cannot be guaranteed.

Key processing steps and when you can expect to hear from us.

☐ **Acknowledging** – after we receive your application we will check it to make sure you have provided all the supporting documents. You will be provided with a receipt for your application and a letter containing the contact details of your case officer. The letter will also indicate what you should do if any documents are outstanding.

☐ **Document checks and health clearances** If we have requested additional documents, we will wait the prescribed period. We will confirm receipt of documents if you provide a stamped self-addressed envelope. We will also wait for the results of health checking.

☐ **Pre-Visa Assessment (PVA)** – Your application will be assessed against the requirements for the Student visa. Once you have met the requirements you will be issued a Pre Visa Assessment to enable you to obtain your Confirmation of Enrolment (COE). You may be required by the education provider to pay the following prior to the issue of the COE:

- Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)
- Fees (ie registration fee, course fees etc) as required by your chosen education provider

Do not obtain your COE until you have been issued with a PVA to avoid unnecessary payment of your tuition fee.

☐ **Assessment and Decision**- Once we receive your COE, the case officer will assess your application against the other requirements of the visa applied for. Once the case officer has assessed your application against the legislative requirements, they will make a decision.

☐ **Notification** – If you are granted a visa, we will place the visa label in your passport. If you are refused a visa, we will provide you with the reasons for our decision. Your passport will generally be returned to you by courier. If you lodge your application through the VIA Center, you may make arrangements to pick up your passport from there. We will return original documents submitted, provided photocopies are also submitted.

We may contact you at any time during the visa process, so it is important that you keep us advised of your correct contact details and any changes in your circumstances (such as the birth of a child, marriage etc).

How can you assist the efficient processing of your application?

Submit a complete application and include all supporting documents.

Provide an e-mail address. This enables us to communicate with you quickly and efficiently.

It may speed up processing if we can communicate with a third party (eg. parents, spouse, sponsor etc) directly regarding the visa application. However, the disclosure of information to parties other than the applicant is governed by the Privacy Act and certain information about the application can only be provided if you give written consent. If you wish us to communicate with a third party, you should provide your written consent for us to do so.