



# Visa options for conferences, seminars, trade fairs or expos

## Overview

There are many visa options available for visiting Australia. This fact sheet is a general guide to the most common visa options for those travelling to Australia to participate in a conference, trade fair, seminar, or expo.

**The information contained in this fact sheet is current as at 23 November 2016. Australian law may change after this time resulting in a change in visa options. Please check the Department of Immigration and Border Protection's website for further information: [www.border.gov.au/](http://www.border.gov.au/)**

New Zealand citizens should refer to the Department's website: [www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/444-](http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/444-)

## Visa Options

### Visitor visas

#### As a participant/attendee

If you are planning to visit Australia to attend a business event such as a conference, seminar, trade fair or expo as a participant or an attendee (that is, you will not be working, entertaining, or being paid to contribute), you may be eligible for one of the following Visitor visas:

- Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) (subclass 601)
- eVisitor (subclass 651)
- Visitor visa (subclass 600) in the Business Visitor stream.

You must not be intending to:

- work for or provide services to a business or organisation in Australia or
- sell goods or services to the Australian public.

While you must not be paid by an organiser for your participation in the event, you may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses such as accommodation and meals.

A Visitor visa may also be appropriate if you are undertaking a genuine unpaid volunteer role, but only if:

- the voluntary work is incidental to the main purpose of your visit to Australia as a tourist
- the work would not otherwise be undertaken in return for wages by an Australian resident

- the work is genuinely voluntary and you are not paid for it, other than for meals, accommodation or out of pocket living expenses
- the main benefit of the voluntary work is not to a commercial organisation
- the voluntary work is short term (generally 3 months) and of benefit to the community.

Further information about the specific requirements of Visitor visas is available on the Department’s website: [www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa/Apply/Visitor](http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa/Apply/Visitor)

## Temporary Activity visa (subclass 408)

**Note:** To apply for a Temporary Activity visa you must make an online visa application through ImmiAccount. If you do not already have an ImmiAccount you will need to create one. To login to ImmiAccount or to create an account refer to the Department’s website: [www.border.gov.au/immiaccount](http://www.border.gov.au/immiaccount)

### As a speaker, presenter, exhibitor, or other contributor

*Activity type: Invited for other social/cultural activity*

If you have been invited to participate in the event by an Australia organisation and you are contributing to the event, for example: as a speaker, presenter, or exhibitor, you may be eligible for the Temporary Activity visa as an ‘Invited Participant’.

If you apply from outside Australia and intend to stay in Australia for three months or less, you do not need to be sponsored for this visa. However, you must provide a letter of invitation from the individual or organisation in Australia responsible for the event, which identifies:

- you (as the visa applicant) and any family members travelling with you
- the event/s, activity or work you will be involved in
- the duties in relation to event/s, activity or work you will be involved in
- the date/s, location/s of the event/s activity or work.

It is a requirement that there is nothing adverse known to the Department about the individual or organisation inviting you, unless it is reasonable for the Department to disregard that information.

To apply for this visa as an ‘Invited Participant’, please select the following Activity type: *Invited for other social/cultural activity* on page 2 of the online application form.

Entertainment activities Sporting activities Religious work Research activities Special programmes Exchange arrangements <b>Invited for other social/cultural activity</b> Australian government endorsed events Superyacht crew Domestic work for executives	Select the activity that the applicant has been invited to undertake during their proposed stay.  Activity type <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Invited for other social/cultural activity ▼</span>
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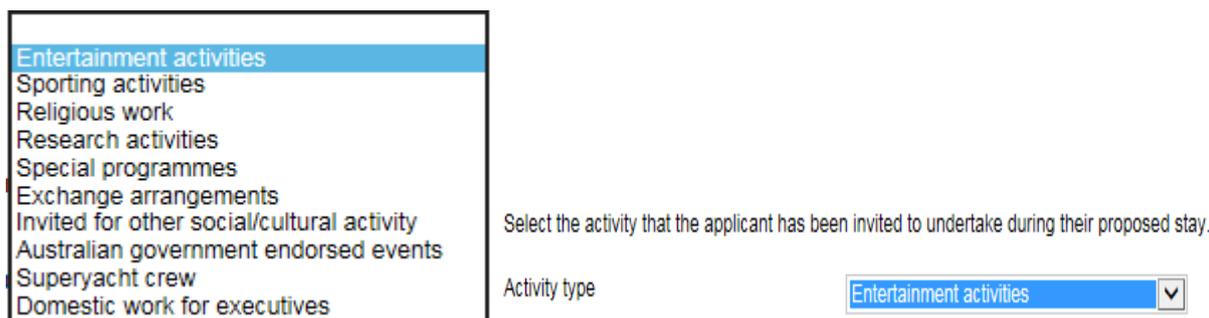
Further information about the specific requirements of the Temporary Activity visa (subclass 408) is available on the Department’s website: [www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/408-](http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/408-)

## As a performer or entertainer

### Activity type: *Entertainment activities*

If you intend to perform or entertain at the event, you may be eligible for the Temporary Activity visa under the Activity type: *Entertainment activities*. This visa allows you to work in the Australian entertainment industry as a performer, or as support or production staff, and also applies to non-profit engagements.

To apply for this visa as a performer or entertainer, please select the following Activity type: *Entertainment activities* on page 2 of the online application form.



The image shows a screenshot of a web form. On the left, there is a dropdown menu with the following options: Entertainment activities (highlighted in blue), Sporting activities, Religious work, Research activities, Special programmes, Exchange arrangements, Invited for other social/cultural activity, Australian government endorsed events, Superyacht crew, and Domestic work for executives. To the right of the dropdown menu, the text reads: "Select the activity that the applicant has been invited to undertake during their proposed stay." Below this text, the label "Activity type" is followed by a dropdown menu that currently displays "Entertainment activities" with a downward arrow.

Further information about the specific requirements of the Temporary Activity visa (subclass 408) is available on the Department's website: [www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/408-](http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/408-)

## Temporary Work (Short Stay Specialist) visa (subclass 400)

### As a Highly Specialised Worker

If you intend to work at the event in a role other than those listed above, you may be eligible for the Temporary Work (Short Stay Specialist) visa. This visa allows you to undertake highly specialised, short-term work, for example: as an installer, construction worker, or site supervisor – where you have specialist skills or proprietary knowledge required for the event.

To apply for a Temporary Work (Short Stay Specialist) visa, you must make an online visa application through ImmiAccount. If you do not already have an ImmiAccount you will need to create one. To login to ImmiAccount or to create an account refer to the Department's website: [www.border.gov.au/immiaccount](http://www.border.gov.au/immiaccount)

Further information about the specific requirements of the Temporary Work (Short Stay Specialist) visa (subclass 400) is available on the Department's website: [www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/400-](http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/400-)

## Visa lists and processing times

A list of visas is available on the Department's website: [www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/Visa-listing](http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/Visa-listing)

When lodging your visa application, you will need to allow time for the application to be processed, taking into account the date you are intending to travel to Australia. Information about visa processing times is available on the Department's website: [www.border.gov.au/about/access-accountability/service-standards](http://www.border.gov.au/about/access-accountability/service-standards)