



# Post-Study Work Rights Extension

## Additional two years post-study work rights for international graduates with select degrees

### Introduction

A key outcome from the Australian Government's Jobs and Skills Summit in September 2022 was the announcement of a two-year extension of post-study work rights for international graduates with select degrees in areas of verified skill shortage.

From 1 July 2023, post-study work rights for international graduates will be increased from:

- two years to four years for select Bachelor degrees
- three years to five years for select Masters degrees
- four years to six years for all doctoral degrees.

This extension will be added to the Temporary Graduate visa (subclass 485) for eligible graduates; or enabling a new visa application for those select students who already hold a TGV and will be seeking an additional two years.

The Government has selected courses eligible for an extended graduate visa for international students from 1 July 2023. The full list of all eligible higher education courses can be found at the [extended post-study work rights page](#).

### Regional

This will not affect eligibility to apply for the Post-Study Work Stream for graduates who have studied, worked, and lived in a regional area.

### Transitional arrangements

Temporary Graduate visa holders in Australia, may be eligible for a Pandemic event (subclass 408). For details, see the [Home Affairs website](#).

## Eligible courses

The full list of all eligible higher education courses at individual providers has been published on the [extended post-study work rights page](#).

The lists of occupations, qualifications and courses will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis to respond to any changes in the labour market and address any risks that emerge.

It is intended that future changes to the qualifications list will not adversely impact students who have started an eligible course of study which has subsequently been removed from this list. Students who graduate with a qualification that was eligible either when they started studying or when they finished studying, or both, will be eligible for the extension.

## Eligibility and how to apply

International students and graduates should check their eligibility on the [Home Affairs website](#).

Lodgement for visa applications will commence on 1 July 2023, subject to appropriate regulations being put in place.

## Further reading

The Post-Study Work Rights Working Group Report submitted to Government for consideration on 28 October 2022 is available [here](#).

The Government Response to the Post-Study Work Rights Working Group Report is available [here](#).

## Frequently asked questions

### Do I need an employer to sponsor me for the extension?

No, employer sponsorship is not required.

### Why is my qualification not eligible?

While all Australian qualifications are designed to prepare graduates for employment, not all qualifications are directly relevant to occupations where skills shortages are being experienced.

The eligibility assessment process relies on the occupational forecasts created by Jobs and Skills Australia.

The list of eligible qualifications will be reviewed on an annual basis.



## What if the list of qualifications changes while I am studying?

The list of eligible qualifications will be reviewed yearly, and it is possible that qualifications will be added or removed. If you graduate with a qualification that was eligible either when you started studying or when you finished studying, or both, you will be eligible for the extension.

## Can I change my course of study to an eligible qualification and be eligible for the extension?

Yes.

## Can I change my course of study from an eligible qualification to an ineligible qualification and be eligible for the extension?

No. You must graduate with an eligible qualification in order to be eligible for the extension.

## Why have graduate certificates and graduate diplomas been excluded as eligible qualifications?

Graduate certificates and graduate diplomas do not meet the Australian Study Requirement. Please check your eligibility on the [Home Affairs website](#).

## Skills needs

### Are all skill priority occupations in-scope for the two-year extension?

Qualifications with direct links to occupations in shortage, with strong or moderate projected future demand are in scope for the two-year extension. The Government will agree and publish the final list annually after review.

### Why have generalist qualifications been excluded?

Generalist qualifications are those which do not lead to a specific occupation pathway, so do not encourage international graduates to contribute to Australia's skills needs by getting jobs in in-demand sectors.

### Will the Australian Government be reviewing its decision to exclude generalist qualifications?

The list of eligible occupations and qualifications will be monitored and reviewed annually, and updated as required based on labour market needs.



## Why aren't doctoral degree holders restricted to the eligible qualifications list?

International doctoral degree graduates of all disciplines represent a highly-skilled cohort with significant potential for this cohort to contribute to Australia's economy and society.

## Timing

### Is this extension of post-study work rights a permanent decision?

There is currently no end-date set for this measure.

