YoNomad



Australia's Working Holiday visa, start to finish

Subclass 417 and 462: checking you qualify, applying, your first weeks in Australia, the work rules, and earning your second and third year.

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Checked against Department of Home Affairs and ATO sources on 11 October 2026
15 pages · printable checklists and tracker · specified-work log

Start here

The Working Holiday Maker program lets 18 to 30-year-olds (35 for some passports) live in Australia for 12 months and do any kind of work to fund the trip. There are two visas: the Working Holiday visa (subclass 417) and the Work and Holiday visa (subclass 462). Your passport decides which one you get.

First visa fee **AUD 840**	Second or third visa **AUD 1,000**
Money to show **About AUD 5,000** + onward fare	Stay **12 months** from first entry
Processing **Around 3 months** on average	Apply from **Outside Australia** (first visa)

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General information, not legal or migration advice. Only registered migration agents, lawyers and exempt persons can give immigration assistance in Australia.

417 or 462?

You don't choose. Check your passport below, then the age limit. You must apply before you turn 31 (or 36), and the cut-off is midnight Australian Eastern time the day before that birthday.

Visa	Passports	Age
417	Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, South Korea, United Kingdom (incl. BN(O))	18–35
417	Belgium, Estonia, Hong Kong, Japan, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Taiwan	18–30
462	Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye, Uruguay, USA, Vietnam	18–30

Everyone

- You can't bring dependent children, at any time, and you apply on your own.
- You must not have entered Australia on a 417 or 462 visa before (that's the second-visa route, page 10).
- Health and character requirements apply; Home Affairs tells you if you need exams or police certificates.

Extra rules for the 462

- **Education:** usually a tertiary qualification or 2 years of university study; the USA asks only for a high-school certificate. Details vary by country on the Home Affairs page.
- **Functional English:** automatic for US passports; otherwise English-language schooling, or a test taken in the 12 months before you apply (for example IELTS average 4.5).
- **Government letter of support** for Ecuador, Greece, Indonesia, Malaysia (Good Conduct Certificate), Mongolia, Peru, Poland, San Marino, Slovenia, Thailand and Türkiye.
- **Yearly caps** for every country except the USA. Check "Status of country caps" before you apply; the program year starts 1 July.
- **Ballot** for China, India and Vietnam: register (AUD 25) and be randomly selected first.

Timing and money

Home Affairs says to apply only once you're ready to travel, and not to book anything until the visa is granted. In practice that means applying about three months ahead.

1. **4–6 months out**
   Check eligibility and caps
   Passport, age deadline and, for the 462, the cap status, education proof, English and any letter of support.
2. **3 months out**
   Apply
   The average is around three months, so allow for that. Don't book non-refundable flights yet.
3. **After the grant**
   Enter within 12 months
   That deadline can't be extended. Your 12 months start the day you first arrive, whatever the reason for the trip, even a transit.
4. **In Australia**
   12 months, come and go
   Leaving doesn't pause the clock: time abroad still counts.

What it costs

Item	AUD
First 417 or 462 visa	840
Second or third visa	1,000
462 ballot registration (China, India, Vietnam)	25
Funds to show: "usually about"	5,000
Plus a ticket out, or the money to buy one	varies
Health checks, police certificates, biometrics, if asked	varies

> **Don't apply for an eVisitor or transit visa afterwards**
> If you're granted another visa such as an eVisitor (651) after your Working Holiday visa, the Working Holiday visa and its work rights end on that date. You don't need any other visa to enter.