

Information for Emigrants

Australia

Good employment opportunities make Australia an attractive destination for Irish emigrants.

Visa

You will need to apply for a visa before leaving for Australia. The Working Holiday Visa is a popular option which allows people between the ages of 18 and 30 to spend up to 12 months travelling and working in Australia. The primary purpose of this visa is to allow you to travel so you can only work with each employer for a maximum of six months. It can be extended for another year if you have worked in regional Australia for three months on your first Holiday Visa.

Another option is to apply for an Employer Sponsored Visa. This can be a temporary or permanent visa. The temporary 457 visa allows employers to hire overseas workers to fill skilled positions in Australia. This visa is valid for up to four years.

If you haven't been sponsored by an employer you may be able to apply for a visa under the General Skilled Migration (GSM) programme, provided your skills match those on the Skilled Occupation List. You can access a copy of Australia's Skilled Occupation List on www.immi.gov.au/skilled/sol

It is extremely important that you maintain your legal status at all times during your stay in Australia.

Accommodation

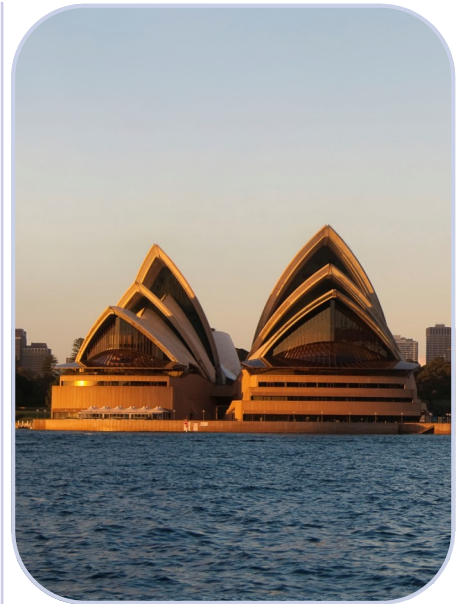
The cost of accommodation may vary but can be high in cities like Sydney and Melbourne. When you sign a lease you may be asked to pay the first two to four weeks' rent and a bond which will amount to about four to six weeks' rent. Apartments are often rented unfurnished so you may need to include money for furniture in your budget.

Employment

If possible you should begin searching for jobs online before you leave. Update your CV (called a résumé in Australia) so it is appropriate for the Australian market. When you arrive you should apply for your Tax File number (TFN) as you will need to provide this to your employer. For more information about applying for your TFN visit www.ato.gov.au

Health Insurance

Australia has a reciprocal health agreement with Ireland which allows Irish residents visiting Australia to use the public health system for emergency treatment during their stay. This covers any ill-health or injury that occurs while in Australia and requires treatment before you return home. This agreement does not cover those in Australia on a student visa. There are many expenses that won't be covered by the reciprocal health agreement,



including ambulance costs, prescription costs, outpatient costs and follow up care. You should therefore also invest in private health insurance. For more information about the healthcare system in Australia visit

www.medicareaustralia.gov.au

What to Do Before You Go

- If using a migration agent look for one registered with the Migration Registration Authority (MARA)
- Bring sufficient funds to live on until you get paid and to cover additional expenses like rent deposits
- Bring several forms of identification-passport, driver's licence, birth certificate
- Bring references from previous employers and landlords
- Research job opportunities and start applying for jobs online
- Arrange temporary health cover
- Update your CV so it is suitable for the Australian market and bring proof of your qualifications



Sydney

USEFUL CONTACTS

Support & Assistance

Irish Chaplaincy Australia-Rev Tom Devereux

Parish of St. Patrick's, 2 Wellington Street,
Bondi, NSW 2026

Phone: +61 2 9365 1195

Email: stpatbon@bigpond.net.au

Irish Embassy in Canberra

20 Arkana St., Yarralumla, ACT 2600, Australia

Phone: +61 2 6214 0000

Website: www.embassyofireland.au.com

Consulate General of Ireland in Sydney

Level 26, 1 Market Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Phone: +61 2 9264 9635

Website: www.irishconsulatesydney.net

Australian Embassy in Ireland

7th Floor, Fitzwilton House, Wilton Terrace, Dublin 2

Phone: +353 1 664 5300

Website: www.ireland.embassy.gov.au



Irish Episcopal Council for Emigrants

A Council of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference

Columba Centre, Maynooth, Co. Kildare

Tel: 01-5053155 Fax: 01-6292363 Email: emigrants@iecon.ie

Australian High Commission in London

(which handles visa services for Irish residents)

Australia House, Strand, London WC2B 4LA

Phone: +44 207 379 4334

Website: www.uk.embassy.gov.au

Irish Australian Welfare Bureau

2 Wellington Street, Bondi, NSW 2026

Phone: +61 2 9300 8019

Website: www.iawb.org.au

Recruitment Agencies & Job Websites

www.seek.com.au

www.jobs.com.au

www.jobsearch.gov.au

www.gumtree.com.au