



Wwoof Pty Ltd ABN: 34 085 920 690
2166 Gelantipy Road W Tree, Victoria, 3885. Australia
wwoof@wwoof.com.au +61(3)-5155-0218 wwoof.com.au

Visas for Wwoofing

Which Visa do I need for Wwoofing?

The Australian Department of Home Affairs has current information about visas, these are some visas that allow Wwoofing:

- **Visitor Visa - Tourist Stream (subclass 600)** (see note below)
<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/visitor-600/tourist-stream-overseas>
- **Electronic Travel Authority (subclass 601)** (see note below)
<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/electronic-travel-authority-601>
- **eVisitor (subclass 651)**
<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/evisitor-651>
- **Working Holiday Visa (417)**
<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/work-holiday-417/first-working-holiday-417>
- **Working Holiday Visa (462)**
<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/work-holiday-462/first-work-holiday-462>
- **Student Visa**
<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500>

For all of the above visas, please see the Department of Home Affairs [website](#) for conditions.
See the [Australian Department of Home Affairs Website](#) or if you need to talk to someone, by phone, Monday – Friday 8.30am – 4.30pm on **131 881**

Choosing a Visa on the Home Affairs website

A screenshot of the Australian Department of Home Affairs visa finder tool. The page has a blue header with the text "Explore visa options for visiting". Below the header, there is a section with the text "We can show you visa options that might suit your needs. Looking at visa options for someone else? Answer these questions as if you were that traveller. All visitors must apply separately." and "We're testing new designs and content. Before you start, we recommend you check the [full disclaimer](#)." Below this, there is a form with the question "What's the main purpose of your visit:" and a dropdown menu showing "volunteer work" selected. To the right of the dropdown is a "change" link. Below the form, there is a section with the text "Here are 3 visas that match your criteria" and a "Back to explore options" button. Below this, there are three cards for different visa options: "Visitor visa (subclass 600) Tourist stream (apply outside Australia)", "Subclass 651 eVisitor", and "Subclass 601 Electronic Travel Authority (subclass 601)".

Go to: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-finder>

Tourists: Choose **Visit and Tourism**, then select **volunteer work**

Working Holiday: Choose **Work**, then select **working holiday or seasonal work** Volunteering is allowed on all Working Holiday visas



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Visitor Visa (Tourist)

Wwoofers travelling on Tourist Visas should join Wwoof as part of their holiday, not the main reason for it. In most cases these Wwoofers want to be doing something useful, learning about organics and permaculture and getting to know some real Australians.

This is much better suited to the pace and lifestyle of non-commercial Wwoof Host properties, where Wwoofers are generally treated as part of the family. They still have all their meals and accommodation provided, but the hours are generally less formal and as the property is not generating an income the Hosts are unlikely to pay someone to help around the property.

There are many non-commercial and hobby farm Wwoof hosts in the program to choose from. The List search on the Wwoof website allows Wwoofers to easily search for hobby and suburban hosts.

On Visitor visas any work must be **genuinely voluntary** and must be work that would not otherwise be undertaken by an Australian resident. This principle applies for those intending to undertake Wwoofing with commercial operators (such as large organic beef farms).

If you are entering Australia on a Tourist visa it is essential that you have Tourist style accommodation booked for your first few days, and have plans for tourist activities, Wwoofing must not be the main reason for your visit to Australia. **Wwoofers on Tourist visas who prearrange to stay on Commercial Farms can be refused entry to Australia as their visa conditions do not permit work.** If you do prearrange any Wwoof Host visits, ensure they are Hobby Farms.

Home Affairs say this [about Visitor Visas - Tourist stream](#):

This visa lets you:

- visit family or friends
- **be here as a tourist**, for a cruise or for any purpose except business or medical treatment

You can study or train for up to 3 months in total on this visa. But if your main reason for travelling to Australia is study, a student visa might be more appropriate.

You can't work*.

*See screenshot next page for Home Affairs definition of "work", volunteering is **not** considered work.

Home Affairs define [Volunteer work](#) as follows:

Volunteer work is work that:

- is **unpaid** (you can be provided with meals, accommodation or out-of-pocket living expenses)
- would not otherwise be done by an Australian for pay
- is **short term**
- is **incidental to your visit** to Australia
- is done for a **not-for-profit** organisation
- benefits the community



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Volunteer work is permitted on Tourist stream visas:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/visitor-600/tourist-stream-overseas#About>

Visitor visa (subclass 600)
Tourist stream (apply outside Australia)
This visa stream lets you visit Australia as a tourist, to go on a cruise or to see family and friends.

Overview About this visa Eligibility Step by step When you have this visa

- [With this visa you can](#)
- [How long you can stay](#)
- [Stay longer](#)
- [Include family](#)
- [Cost](#)
- [Apply from](#)
- [Processing times](#)
- [Your obligations](#)
- [Health insurance](#)
- [Travel](#)
- [Visa label](#)

With this visa you can

- visit family or friends
- be here as a tourist, for a cruise or for any purpose except business or medical treatment

You can study or train for up to 3 months in total on this visa. But if your main reason for travel is to study, a student visa might be more appropriate.

You can't work.

Glossary and feedback

What does "Work" mean?

Work is performing an activity in Australia a person would normally be remunerated for. This could be payment or some other form of reward.

These activities are not considered work:

- volunteering
- doing work online for your job in your home country
- studying in a university outside Australia and the activity relates to your study and is credited to your course
- seeing how people work in an industry
- short-term domestic or careiving

The Visitor visa does not offer the wide scope of options that are available to those who are holders of Working Holiday or Work and Holiday visas which do permit work.

Wwoofing (Volunteering) IS allowed on ALL Working Holiday Visas

The Department of Home Affairs say: "In recognition of the many legitimate and worthwhile agencies that employ volunteer workers to deliver valuable community services, Working Holiday visa holders will still be able to perform volunteer work should they wish to do so. The work will simply not count towards eligibility for a second visa."

For details see:

- **Working Holiday Visa (417)**

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/work-holiday-417/first-working-holiday-417>

- **Working Holiday Visa (462)**

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/work-holiday-462/first-work-holiday-462>



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Student Visas

The screenshot shows the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs website. The page title is 'Work conditions for student visa holders'. The breadcrumb trail is: Home > Individuals and Travellers > Studying in Australia > More information for students > Work conditions for Student visa holders. The page content includes a navigation menu on the left with categories like 'Individuals and Travellers' and 'More information for students'. The main content area has a blue header 'Work conditions for student visa holders' and a light blue box with a message: 'We are building a new version of our website. We want to make sure our immigration and citizenship services are simple to use and meet your needs. Please help us by visiting our test site (beta) and providing your feedback. We'd love to hear from you!'. Below this, there is a section titled 'Work conditions for student visa holders' with the following text: 'If you are a student visa holder, you and your dependant family members have permission to work included with your visa. You and your family members must not breach the work conditions that apply to your student visa.' This is followed by another section titled 'Work conditions for student visa holders' with the text: 'You cannot work until you have commenced your course in Australia. Once your course has commenced you are permitted to work a maximum of 40 hours per fortnight when your course is **in session**, and unlimited hours when your course is **out of session**. Work that is formally registered as part of your course is not included in the 40 hours per fortnight limitation.' A red box highlights the following text: 'Student visa holders and their dependants who are subject to visa condition 8104 or 8105, may take part in volunteer work outside of the 40 hours per fortnight work limitation if:'. This is followed by a bulleted list: '• their main purpose is to study in Australia and voluntary work remains secondary to this, and', '• the work involved would not otherwise be undertaken by an Australian resident, and', '• the work is genuinely voluntary for a non-profit organisation and no remuneration, in cash or kind, is received in return for the activity.' Below the list, it states: 'Unpaid work that does not fit within the above description of volunteer work, is counted towards the 40 hours per fortnight limitation.' The page also includes a section for 'If you are a postgraduate research student:' with a bulleted list: '• you can work a maximum of 40 hours per fortnight during any preliminary courses you undertake', '• if you have commenced your masters by research or doctoral degree in Australia, there is no limit on the number of hours you may work.'

For more information on Student visas, see:

Student Visa

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500>

IMPORTANT NOTE: Home Affairs change the rules from time to time about what activities are allowed on these visas, it is important to confirm with Home Affairs that the type of visa you apply for does allow volunteering in exchange for food and accommodation. Wwoof does NOT have any influence over Home Affairs, and they do not advise Wwoof if they alter the Rules, the most current information is always on their website www.border.gov.au

You must arrange your entry visa to Australia before you join Wwoof. Wwoof Memberships will not be refunded if you cannot obtain an entry visa. Wwoof Pty Ltd and Wwoof Hosts cannot assist with travel costs or visa applications, so please do not ask.