



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:

- **Working Holiday Visa (417)**
immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/work-holiday-417/first-working-holiday-417
- **Working Holiday Visa (462)**
immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/work-holiday-462/first-work-holiday-462
- **Visitor Visa - Tourist Stream (subclass 600)** (see note below)
immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/visitor-600/tourist-stream-overseas
- **Electronic Travel Authority (subclass 601)** (see note below)
immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/electronic-travel-authority-601
- **eVisitor (subclass 651)**
immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/evisitor-651
- **Student Visa**
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](https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au) for conditions. See the [Australian Department of Home Affairs Website](https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au) 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

Go to: 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.

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.” ***However, **Bushfire and Flood Recovery volunteering does count.** ***

*** Following the 2020 Bushfires, **volunteers can qualify for visa extensions** if they assist with **bushfire recovery** in designated [Bushfire Disaster areas](#), see www.woof.com.au/woofing-2nd-year-visa-bushfire-disaster-areas-only/ Following 2021 Floods, **flood recovery volunteering** in designated [Flood Disaster areas](#) **has also been included for visa extensions**. The WWOOF Bushfire & Flood Recovery form must be filled in and accompany visa extension applications: [WWOOF bushfire and flood recovery volunteer form.pdf](#) ***

For details see:

- **Working Holiday Visa (417)**

immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/what-we-do/whm-program/specified-work-conditions/specified-work-417

- **Working Holiday Visa (462)**

immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/what-we-do/whm-program/specified-work-conditions/specified-work-462

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 below 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

Volunteer work is permitted on Tourist stream visas:

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 caregiving

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.

Student Visas

Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

Home > Individuals and Travellers > Studying in Australia > More information for students > Work conditions for Student visa holders

Work conditions for student visa holders

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!

If you are a student visa holder, you and your dependent 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.

Work conditions for student visa holders

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.

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:

- 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.

Unpaid work that does not fit within the above description of volunteer work, is counted towards the 40 hours per fortnight limitation.

If you are a postgraduate research student:

- 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 immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500

Student visa holders may volunteer for not-for profit (hobby farms) as for Tourist visas, or they can volunteer on commercial farms. In January 2022 the Australian government [announced that they would be temporarily removing the restriction on paid working hours](#), which was up to 40 hours per fortnight.

Volunteer work on Student visas

You may take part in volunteer work outside of the 40 hours per fortnight work limitation if it fits within the description of [volunteer work](#).

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.