



Commonwealth of Australia

Migration Regulations 1994

**STUDENT VISA ASSESSMENT LEVELS
(REGULATION 1.41)**

I, *CHRIS BOWEN*, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, acting under regulation 1.41 of the *Migration Regulations 1994* ('the Regulations'):

1. REVOKE Instrument Number IMMI 10/003 signed on 16 March 2010 specifying an assessment level for a kind of eligible passport, in relation to each subclass of student visa, for the purposes of regulation 1.41 of the Regulations; AND
2. SPECIFY, in relation to an application for a student visa made on or after 2 April 2011, an assessment level for a kind of eligible passport, in relation to each subclass of student visa referred to in the Schedule to this Instrument, for the purposes of regulation 1.41 of the Regulations.

This Instrument, IMMI 11/011, commences on 2 April 2011.

Dated 7 March 2011

Chris Bowen

Minister for Immigration and Citizenship

[NOTE 1: Subregulation 1.40(1) provides that for Division 1.8 of the Regulations, a passport is an eligible passport if it is a valid passport of a kind specified by Gazette Notice for this regulation; and the conditions (if any) specified by Gazette Notice for passports of that kind are satisfied.

NOTE 2: Subregulation 1.41(1) provides that the Minister must specify by Gazette Notice an assessment level for a kind of eligible passport, in relation to each subclass of student visa, to which an applicant for a student visa who seeks to satisfy the primary criteria will be subject, other than an applicant who is a person designated under regulation 2.07AO and applies for a Subclass 571 (Schools Sector) visa, a Subclass 572 (Vocational Education and Training Sector) visa, a Subclass 573 (Higher Education Sector) visa or a Subclass 574 (Postgraduate Research Sector) visa.

NOTE 3: Subregulation 1.41(4) provides that the assessment level specified for a kind of eligible passport must be a number from 1 to 5, with assessment level 1 specified for a passport, holders of which pose a very low risk and assessment level 5 specified for a passport, holders of which pose an extremely high risk, and is not required to be the same for each subclass of student visa.]

Schedule

SUBCLASS 570 INDEPENDENT ELICOS SECTOR

Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 1

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Andorra | Ireland, Republic of | Oman |
| Austria | Italy | Poland |
| Bahrain | Japan | Portugal |
| Belgium | Kuwait | Qatar |
| Brunei | Latvia | San Marino |
| Canada | Liechtenstein | Saudi Arabia |
| Chile | Lithuania | Singapore |
| Cyprus | Luxembourg | Slovenia |
| Czech Republic | Macau Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China | Spain |
| Denmark | Malaysia | Sweden |
| Estonia | Malta | Switzerland |
| Finland | Mauritius | Taiwan |
| France | Mexico | United Arab Emirates |
| Germany | Monaco | United Kingdom [excluding British National (Overseas), British Dependent Territories Citizen, British Overseas Citizen, British Protected Person, British Subject] |
| Greece | Netherlands, Kingdom of the | United States of America |
| Hong Kong Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China | New Caledonia | Vatican City State (Holy See) |
| Iceland | Norway | |

Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 2

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Argentina | Grenada | Puerto Rico |
| Bahamas | Guam | Seychelles |
| Barbados | Guatemala | Slovak Republic |
| Bhutan | Honduras | Solomon Islands |
| Botswana | Hungary | South Africa |
| Brazil | Indonesia | St Kitts-Nevis |
| British National (Overseas) | Israel | St Lucia |

IMMI 11/011

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bulgaria | Korea, Republic of | St Vincent & Grenadines |
| Colombia | Lao People's Democratic Republic | Thailand |
| Costa Rica | New Zealand | Trinidad and Tobago |
| Croatia | North Mariana Islands | Uruguay |
| Cuba | Papua New Guinea | Vanuatu |
| East Timor (Timor Leste) | Paraguay | Venezuela |
| El Salvador | Peru | |

Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 3

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| Ecuador | Myanmar (Burma) | Tonga |
| Egypt | Nauru | Turkey |
| Fiji | Nepal | Tuvalu |
| Ghana | Nigeria | Vietnam |
| Iran, Islamic Republic of | People's Republic of China (excluding passports issued by the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau) | Western Samoa |
| Kenya | Philippines | Zambia |
| Kiribati | Romania | Zimbabwe |
| Maldives | Russian Federation | All eligible passports not elsewhere specified |
| Mongolia | Tanzania | |

Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 4

| | | |
|----------------------|---------|-----------|
| Bangladesh | Jordan | Pakistan |
| Cambodia, Kingdom of | Lebanon | Sri Lanka |
| India | | |

Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 5

| |
|----------------|
| None specified |
|----------------|

SUBCLASS 571 SCHOOLS SECTOR**Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 1**

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Andorra | Italy | Qatar |
| Argentina | Japan | San Marino |
| Austria | Korea, Republic of | Saudi Arabia |
| Bahrain | Kuwait | Singapore |
| Belgium | Latvia | Slovak Republic |
| Brazil | Liechtenstein | Slovenia |
| Brunei | Lithuania | Solomon Islands |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Canada | Luxembourg | South Africa |
| Chile | Macau Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China | Spain |
| Czech Republic | Malaysia | Sweden |
| Denmark | Malta | Switzerland |
| Estonia | Mexico | Taiwan |
| Finland | Monaco | Thailand |
| France | Netherlands, Kingdom of the | United Arab Emirates |
| Germany | New Caledonia | United Kingdom [excluding British National (Overseas), British Dependent Territories Citizen, British Overseas Citizen, British Protected Person, British Subject] |
| Greece | Norway | United States of America |
| Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China | Oman | Vanuatu |
| Hungary | Peru | Vatican City State (Holy See) |
| Iceland | Poland | Venezuela |
| Ireland, Republic of | Portugal | |

Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 2

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Afghanistan | Guam | Paraguay |
| Bahamas | Guatemala | Philippines |
| Barbados | Honduras | Puerto Rico |
| Bhutan | India | Romania |
| Botswana | Indonesia | Russian Federation |
| British National (Overseas) | Kenya | Seychelles |
| Bulgaria | Lao People's Democratic Republic | St Kitts-Nevis |
| Colombia | Maldives | St Lucia |
| Costa Rica | Mauritius | St Vincent & Grenadines |
| Cyprus | Nepal | Trinidad and Tobago |
| East Timor (Timor Leste) | New Zealand | Vietnam |
| Ecuador | North Mariana Islands | Zambia |
| Grenada | Papua New Guinea | Zimbabwe |

Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 3

| | | |
|----------------------|---------|----------|
| Cambodia, Kingdom of | Lebanon | Tanzania |
|----------------------|---------|----------|

IMMI 11/011

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Egypt | Mongolia | Tonga |
| Fiji | Myanmar (Burma) | Turkey |
| Ghana | Nauru | Tuvalu |
| Iran, Islamic Republic of | Nigeria | Uruguay |
| Israel | Pakistan | Western Samoa |

| | | |
|----------|-----------|--|
| Jordan | Sri Lanka | All eligible passports not elsewhere specified |
| Kiribati | | |

Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 4

| | | |
|------------|--|--|
| Bangladesh | People’s Republic of China (excluding passports issued by the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau) | |
|------------|--|--|

Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 5

| |
|----------------|
| None specified |
|----------------|

SUBCLASS 572 VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING SECTOR**Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 1**

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Andorra | Iceland | Oman |
| Austria | Ireland, Republic of | Poland |
| Bahrain | Italy | Portugal |
| Belgium | Japan | Qatar |
| British National (Overseas) | Kuwait | San Marino |
| Brunei | Liechtenstein | Singapore |
| Canada | Lithuania | Slovenia |
| Chile | Luxembourg | Spain |
| Cyprus | Macau Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China | Sweden |
| Denmark | Malaysia | Switzerland |
| Estonia | Malta | Taiwan |
| Finland | Monaco | United Arab Emirates |
| France | Netherlands, Kingdom of the | United Kingdom [excluding British National (Overseas), British Dependent Territories Citizen, British Overseas Citizen, British Protected Person, British Subject] |
| Germany | New Caledonia | United States of America |

| | | |
|---|--------|-------------------------------|
| Greece | Norway | Vatican City State (Holy See) |
| Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China | | |

Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 2

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Argentina | Honduras | Peru |
| Bahamas | Hungary | Puerto Rico |
| Barbados | Indonesia | Saudi Arabia |
| Bhutan | Israel | Seychelles |
| Bosnia-Herzegovina | Jordan | Slovak Republic |
| Botswana | Korea, Republic of | Solomon Islands |
| Brazil | Lao People's Democratic Republic | South Africa |
| Bulgaria | Latvia | St Kitts-Nevis |
| Costa Rica | Maldives | St Lucia |
| Croatia | Mauritius | St Vincent & Grenadines |
| Czech Republic | Mexico | Thailand |
| East Timor | New Zealand | Trinidad and Tobago |
| El Salvador | North Mariana Islands | Uruguay |
| Grenada | Papua New Guinea | Vanuatu |
| Guam | Paraguay | Venezuela |
| Guatemala | | |

Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 3

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Cambodia, Kingdom of | Myanmar (Burma) | Turkey |
| Colombia | Nauru | Tuvalu |
| Ecuador | Nigeria | Vietnam |
| Egypt | Philippines | Western Samoa |
| Iran, Islamic Republic of | Romania | Zambia |
| Kenya | Russian Federation | Zimbabwe |
| Kiribati | Tanzania | All eligible passports not elsewhere specified |
| Mongolia | Tonga | |

Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 4

| | | |
|------------|---------|---|
| Bangladesh | India | Pakistan |
| Fiji | Lebanon | People's Republic of China (excluding passports issued by the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and |

| | | |
|-------|-------|-----------|
| | | Macau) |
| Ghana | Nepal | Sri Lanka |

Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 5

| |
|----------------|
| None specified |
|----------------|

SUBCLASS 573 HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR**Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 1**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Andorra | Hungary | Poland |
| Argentina | Iceland | Portugal |
| Austria | Ireland, Republic of | Qatar |
| Bahamas | Italy | San Marino |
| Bahrain | Japan | Saudi Arabia |
| Barbados | Korea, Republic of | Seychelles |
| Belgium | Kuwait | Singapore |
| Botswana | Latvia | Slovak Republic |
| Brazil | Liechtenstein | Slovenia |
| British National (Overseas) | Lithuania | Solomon Islands |
| Brunei | Luxembourg | South Africa |
| Canada | Macau Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China | Spain |
| Chile | Malaysia | Sweden |
| Costa Rica | Malta | Switzerland |
| Cyprus | Mauritius | Taiwan |
| Czech Republic | Mexico | Thailand |
| Denmark | Monaco | United Arab Emirates |
| Estonia | Netherlands, Kingdom of the | United Kingdom [excluding British National (Overseas), British Dependent Territories Citizen, British Overseas Citizen, British Protected Person, British Subject] |
| Finland | New Caledonia | United States of America |
| France | Norway | Vanuatu |
| Germany | Oman | Vatican City State (Holy See) |
| Greece | Papua New Guinea | Venezuela |
| Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China | Peru | |

Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 2

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bhutan | Indonesia | Romania |
| Bolivia | Israel | Russian Federation |
| Belize | Jamaica | St Kitts-Nevis |
| Bosnia-Herzegovina | Kazakhstan | St Lucia |
| Bulgaria | Kiribati | St Vincent & Grenadines |
| Colombia | Lao People's Democratic Republic | Syria |
| Croatia | Malawi | Tonga |
| East Timor (Timor Leste) | Maldives | Trinidad and Tobago |
| Ecuador | Mozambique | Turkey |
| El Salvador | New Zealand | Uruguay |
| Grenada | North Mariana Islands | Vietnam |
| Guam | Paraguay | Yemen |
| Guatemala | Philippines | Zambia |
| Honduras | Puerto Rico | |

Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 3

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Bangladesh | Kenya | Nigeria |
| Cambodia, Kingdom of | Lebanon | People's Republic of China [excluding passports issued by the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau] |
| Egypt | Mongolia | Tanzania |
| Fiji | Myanmar (Burma) | Tuvalu |
| India | Nauru | Western Samoa |
| Iran, Islamic Republic of | Nepal | All eligible passports not elsewhere specified |
| Jordan | | |

Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 4

| | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|
| Ghana | Sri Lanka | Zimbabwe |
| Pakistan | | |

Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 5

| |
|----------------|
| None specified |
|----------------|

SUBCLASS 574 POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH SECTOR**Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 1**

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------|----------|
| Andorra | Ireland, Republic of | Portugal |
| Argentina | Israel | Qatar |
| Austria | Italy | Romania |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Bahamas | Japan | Russian Federation |
| Bahrain | Jordan | San Marino |
| Barbados | Korea, Republic of | Saudi Arabia |
| Belgium | Kuwait | Seychelles |
| Botswana | Lao People's Democratic Republic | Singapore |
| Brazil | Latvia | Slovak Republic |
| British National (Overseas) | Liechtenstein | Slovenia |
| Brunei | Lithuania | Solomon Islands |
| Bulgaria | Luxembourg | South Africa |
| Canada | Macau Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China | Spain |
| Chile | Malaysia | Sweden |
| Costa Rica | Maldives | Switzerland |
| Cyprus | Malta | Taiwan |
| Czech Republic | Mauritius | Thailand |
| Denmark | Mexico | Tonga |
| East Timor (Timor Leste) | Monaco | Turkey |
| Estonia | Netherlands, Kingdom of the | United Arab Emirates |
| Finland | New Caledonia | United Kingdom [excluding British National (Overseas), British Dependent Territories Citizen, British Overseas Citizen, British Protected Person, British Subject] |
| France | North Mariana Islands | United States of America |
| Germany | Norway | Uruguay |
| Greece | Oman | Vanuatu |
| Guam | Papua New Guinea | Vatican City State (Holy See) |
| Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China | Peru | Venezuela |
| Hungary | Philippines | Vietnam |
| Iceland | Poland | |

Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 2

All eligible passports not elsewhere specified

Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 3

None specified

Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 4

None specified

Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 5

None specified

SUBCLASS 575 NON-AWARD SECTOR**Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 1**

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Andorra | Israel | Portugal |
| Argentina | Italy | Qatar |
| Austria | Japan | San Marino |
| Bahrain | Korea, Republic of | Saudi Arabia |
| Belgium | Kuwait | Singapore |
| Brazil | Latvia | Slovak Republic |
| Brunei | Liechtenstein | Slovenia |
| Canada | Lithuania | Solomon Islands |
| Chile | Luxembourg | South Africa |
| Colombia | Macau Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China | Spain |
| Cyprus | Malaysia | Sweden |
| Czech Republic | Malta | Switzerland |
| Denmark | Mexico | Taiwan |
| Estonia | Monaco | Thailand |
| Finland | Netherlands, Kingdom of the | Turkey |
| France | New Caledonia | United Arab Emirates |
| Germany | Norway | United Kingdom [excluding British National (Overseas), British Dependent Territories Citizen, British Overseas Citizen, British Protected Person, British Subject] |
| Greece | Oman | United States of America |
| Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China | Peru | Vanuatu |
| Hungary | Philippines | Vatican City State (Holy See) |
| Iceland | Poland | Venezuela |
| Ireland, Republic of | | |

Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 2

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Bahamas | Fiji | North Mariana Islands |
| Barbados | Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia | Papua New Guinea |
| Bhutan | Grenada | Paraguay |
| Bosnia-Herzegovina | Guam | Puerto Rico |
| Botswana | Guatemala | Romania |
| British National (Overseas) | Honduras | Russian Federation |
| Bulgaria | Indonesia | Seychelles |
| Costa Rica | Iran | St Kitts-Nevis |
| Croatia | Lao People's Democratic Republic | St Lucia |
| East Timor (Timor Leste) | Mauritius | St Vincent & Grenadines |
| Ecuador | New Zealand | Trinidad and Tobago |
| El Salvador | | |

Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 3

| | | |
|----------------------|--|---|
| Bangladesh | Mongolia | Tonga |
| Cambodia, Kingdom of | Myanmar (Burma) | Tuvalu |
| Egypt | Nauru | Uruguay |
| Ghana | Nepal | Vietnam |
| India | Nigeria | Western Samoa |
| Jordan | People's Republic of China [excluding passports issued by the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau] | Zambia |
| Kenya | Sri Lanka | Zimbabwe |
| Kiribati | Tanzania | All eligible passports not elsewhere specified |
| Maldives | | |

Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 4

| | | |
|---------|----------|--|
| Lebanon | Pakistan | |
|---------|----------|--|

Kind of eligible passport – Assessment level 5

| |
|----------------|
| None specified |
|----------------|

SUBCLASS 576 AUSAID OR DEFENCE SECTOR

| Kind of eligible passport | Assessment level |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| None specified | Assessment level 1 |
| All eligible passports | Assessment level 2 |
| None specified | Assessment level 3 |

IMMI 11/011

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| None specified | Assessment level 4 |
| None specified | Assessment level 5 |

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Migration Regulations 1994

**STUDENT VISA ASSESSMENT LEVELS
(REGULATION 1.41)**

1. This Legislative Instrument is made under subregulation 1.41(1) in Part 1 of the *Migration Regulations 1994* ('the Regulations').
2. Regulation 1.41 of the Regulations provides that the Assessment Levels be specified by the Minister. Relevantly, subregulation 1.41(1) provides that the Minister must specify by Gazette Notice an Assessment Level for a kind of eligible passport, in relation to each subclass of Student visa, to which an applicant for a Student visa who seeks to satisfy the primary criteria will be subject. Subregulation 1.41(4) provides that the Assessment Level specified for a kind of eligible passport must be a number from 1 to 5, with Assessment Level 1 specified for passport holders who pose a very low immigration risk and Assessment Level 5 specified for passport holders who pose an extremely high immigration risk. Assessment Levels are not required to be the same for each of the countries specified as issuing eligible passports, nor must they be the same for each subclass of Student visa.
3. The purpose of the Legislative Instrument is to lower the Assessment Levels of 38 countries across one or more Student visa subclasses. This will lower the minimum evidentiary requirements needed for the grant of a Student visa for these selected countries and education sectors.
4. The Legislative Instrument operates to specify the Assessment Levels applicable to applicants for Student visas from different countries in relation to each subclass of Student visa (education sector).
5. Consultation was conducted with relevant internal and external stakeholders from the international education sector and other Commonwealth government agencies.
6. The Office of Best Practice Regulation has advised that a Regulatory Impact Statement is not required (OBPR Reference 11542).
7. The Legislative Instrument, IMMI 11/011, commences on 2 April 2011.



Reduction of Certain Student Visa Assessment Levels

Reductions in Student visa assessment levels for 38 countries for one or more Student visa subclasses was announced by the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship on 16 December 2010. These reductions will take effect on 2 April 2011.

See: www.immi.gov.au/students/pdf/student-visa-changes.pdf

Prospective students and their families, agents and education providers should be aware that these changes will lower the minimum evidentiary requirements needed for the grant of a Student visa for the selected countries and education sectors. **However, the reductions to assessment levels do not change the likelihood of a former student in Australia obtaining permanent residence.**

A Student visa entitles international students to come to Australia on a temporary basis for a specified period to undertake study at an Australian educational institution. While many international students make a decision to apply for permanent residence upon completing their studies, this is an entirely separate process. There is no guarantee that by previously having a Student visa, a person will meet the requirements to be granted permanent residence.

Further information on assessment levels and a full list of assessment levels for different countries in each education sector is available on the department's website.

See: www.immi.gov.au/students/student-visa-assessment-levels.htm

Frequently asked Questions

Q: Which countries and visa subclasses will have their assessment levels lowered?

A: There are 38 countries that will have their assessment levels lowered across one or more subclasses. The full list of affected countries is available on the department's website.

See: www.immi.gov.au/students/pdf/student-visa-changes.pdf

Q: I am an international student studying in Australia. Do these changes affect me? When do these changes take place?

A: These changes will only affect new Student visa applications made on or after 2 April 2011.

Q: What does a reduction of assessment levels mean to Student visa applicants?

A: Students affected by the changes will be required to provide less documentary evidence to support their claims for the grant of a Student visa. These may include evidence of English language proficiency, financial capacity and academic qualifications (more detail is provided in the summary of key requirements for Student visa applicants table). **Those who are subject to Assessment Level 1 are eligible to lodge online internet based applications.**

Summary of key requirements for Student visa applicants

| Assessment level | Evidence of English language proficiency | Evidence of financial capacity | Academic qualifications |
|------------------|---|---|--|
| 1 | Enrolment by education provider | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a declaration that they have sufficient funds to support their entire stay in Australia | Enrolment by education provider |
| 2 | Enrolment by education provider | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> evidence of funds from an acceptable source to pay for their expenses for the first 12 months of their stay a declaration that they have sufficient funds to support the remainder of their stay in Australia <p>Note: Funds can be provided by any individual willing to support the applicant if they can demonstrate their income stream.</p> | <p>Postgraduate research: Undergraduate degree</p> <p>All other sectors: enrolment by education provider</p> |
| 3 | <p>Independent English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) and schools: enrolment by education provider</p> <p>Vocational Education and Training (VET) and non-award: 5.5 International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or 4.5 IELTS with a preliminary ELICOS course</p> <p>Higher education and postgraduate research: 6.0 IELTS or 5.0 IELTS with ELICOS course</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> evidence of funds from an acceptable source (a money deposit or a loan with an acceptable financial institution) to pay for their expenses for the first 24 months of their stay (or duration of preliminary plus first 12 months of principal course for Postgraduate Research) a declaration that they have sufficient funds to support the remainder of their stay in Australia <p>Note: Funds can be provided by any individual willing to support the applicant if they can demonstrate their income stream.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> if evidence of funds is a money deposit, must show a three months savings history | <p>Schools: Completed year six</p> <p>VET: Completed year 11</p> <p>Higher education: Completed year 12 or year 11 and foundation studies or Certificate IV</p> <p>Postgraduate research: Undergraduate degree</p> |
| 4 | <p>Independent ELICOS: 5.0 IELTS</p> <p>Schools: If over 16 years, 5.0 IELTS or 4.0 IELTS with preliminary ELICOS</p> <p>VET and non-award: 5.5 IELTS or 5.0 IELTS with a preliminary ELICOS course</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> evidence of funds from an acceptable source (a money deposit or a loan with an acceptable financial institution) to pay for their expenses for the first 36 months of their stay (or duration of preliminary plus first 12 months of principal course for postgraduate research) a declaration that they have sufficient funds to support the remainder of their stay in Australia | <p>Schools: Completed year nine</p> <p>VET: Completed year 12</p> <p>Higher education: Completed year 12 or year 11 and foundation studies or Certificate IV</p> |

| Assessment level | Evidence of English language proficiency | Evidence of financial capacity | Academic qualifications |
|------------------|---|--|--|
| | Higher education and postgraduate research: 6.0 IELTS or 5.0 IELTS with ELICOS course | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funds must be provided by close relatives only who can demonstrate their income stream • if evidence of funds is a money deposit, must show a six months savings history | Postgraduate research: Undergraduate degree |
| 5 | All subclasses: IELTS 7.0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evidence of funds (money deposits) to pay for their expenses for the full period of their stay • funds must be provided by the applicant • evidence of income stream • if evidence of funds is a money deposit, must show a five year savings history | Postgraduate research: Undergraduate degree All other sectors: Year 12. Evidence of relevance to current or prospective employment |

Note: This table is not intended as a comprehensive list of all requirements of evidence in Schedule 5A to the *Migration Regulations 1994*. For comprehensive information please visit the department's website.

See: www.immi.gov.au/students/

Q: Will a reduction of assessment levels mean an easier pathway to gain Australian permanent residence?

A: **A Student visa does not confer any automatic right to migrate to Australia.** It is important to note that Student visas are aimed at achieving an educational outcome. The skilled migration program is designed to meet the needs of the Australian labour market and strengthen the whole economy.

Requirements for permanent skilled migration will change from time to time and there is no particular course that guarantees a permanent visa.

Students should **not make** educational choices solely on the basis of hoping to achieve a particular migration outcome, because the skilled migration program will continue to change and adapt to Australia's economic needs.