



Fact sheet

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WORKING RIGHTS

This is high-level general information only and is not intended to be advice of any kind. Information is correct as of 14 November 2023. This FAQ is for information purposes only. Students should consider the information on the websites in the FAQ and consider if they need expert advice about any working rights they may have.

ENGAGING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Engaging international students and graduates is easier than you might think. In fact, there are many options to discover new talent and provide students and graduates with valuable experience in the Australian workplace.

HOW CAN INDUSTRIES ENGAGE?

During study	
Academic Calendar 2024	
Session 1	19 February – 21 June
Session 2	23 July – 22 November
Session 3*	9 December – 24 January 2025

**Note: Session 3 is an intensive and non-compulsory study period*

International students can engage in employment **for up to 48 hours per fortnight during academic sessions**, with unrestricted working rights during non-teaching periods. It's important to note that prior to the commencement of their course, students are ineligible to work unless their visa explicitly allows it. These students don't need visa sponsorship and are eligible for various types of employment, including standard casual, part-time, and fixed-term contract positions.

For students who are already working in the Aged Care sector as of 9 May 2023 there is an exemption to the 48 hour/ fortnight cap until 31 December 2023. Any work outside of that sector is limited to 48 hours a fortnight, while their course is in session.

Working 48 hours a fortnight is equivalent to approximately three days per week. A fortnight is a period of 14 days starting on a Monday.

Voluntary work – or work performed as part of a formal, registered course – is not included in the 48-hour per fortnight maximum.

To learn more please visit [homeaffairs.gov.au](https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au)

PART-TIME AND CASUAL WORK

As most students have at least part-time work rights throughout their studies, many seek part-time employment opportunities.

Although all students benefit most from employment opportunities related to their chosen area of study, any form of paid, part-time employment can benefit both the employer and the student. Therefore, international students are a great option to consider if employers are looking for highly motivated and dedicated part-time or casual staff.

To learn more please visit [homeaffairs.gov.au](https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS / OR OTHER PERMANENT, PAID EMPLOYMENT

Most international students qualify for temporary visas that allow them full work rights for a specified period in Australia under Temporary Graduate Visa, subclass 485.

The length of their stay in Australia will depend on their Australian study qualification level.

- 2 years to 4 years for select **Bachelor degrees**.
- 3 years to 5 years for select **Masters degrees**.
- 4 years to 6 years for all **doctoral qualifications**.
- **Hong Kong and BNO passport holders** who complete a bachelor, master or doctoral degree - 5 years

To learn more please visit [Temporary Graduate visa \(subclass 485\) | Study Australia](https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au)

AUSTRALIAN SPONSORSHIP VISA

For employers who want to sponsor a skilled worker or wish to take over an existing sponsorship, below are the associated costs:

Australian Sponsorship Visa Cost	
Temporary Skill Shortage (TSS) visa subclass 482	Cost
Become an approved sponsor (note this is a one-off cost which will last for 5 years)	\$420
Nominate a visa applicant for the TSS 482 visa	\$330
Pay the Skilling Australians Fund Levy	\$1200 or \$1800 per year of visa (depending on the size of the business)
Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS) visa subclass 186	Cost
Nominate a visa applicant for the ENS 186 visa	\$540 (subject to stream and location)

To learn more please visit: homeaffairs.gov.au

For further information:

[Extended Post Study Work Rights](#)

[Full List of courses for students to receive extended post-study work rights](#)

[Work Restrictions for Student Visa holders](#)

FIND OUT MORE

Macquarie University NSW 2109 Australia

[Macquarie business-school Industry Partnership Program](#)

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