

Australian Government

Department of Immigration and Border Protection

# Checklist and frequently asked questions

# Visitor Visa - Tourist stream (subclass 600) &

# Visitor Visa - Business visitor stream (subclass 600)

Use this checklist to ensure that your application is complete and all of the relevant documentation has been included.

You must provide documents and evidence to support your application for this visa. We can make a decision using the information you provide when you lodge your application. It is in your interest to provide as much information as possible with your application at the time of lodgement. Applications with missing information can be decided on the information provided at lodgement and might take longer to finalise

- All non-English documents must be translated into English and accompany the certified copy of the document.
  - In Australia contact the <u>National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters</u> for a translator.
  - Translators outside Australia do not need to be accredited, but they must endorse the translation with their full name, address, telephone number, and details of their qualifications and experience in the language being translated.
- All foreign issued documents must be certified by the issuing authority
- All documents that you provide in your online application via ImmiAccount must be scanned **certified** original documents (DO NOT scan copies of originals).
- All documents that you provide in your paper application should be **certified copies or original copies of documents that can be retained by the Department.** Do not send originals as we cannot return these documents to you.

# Issuing authority certification of documents

**In Lebanon**, all official documents (Individual Census, Family Census, Marriage Certificates, Divorce Certificates, Death Certificates) must be certified by the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities. The original copy of these should be provided (multiple copies can be issued by the Ministry upon request and therefore they will not be returned to you).

**Republic of Cyprus**, birth certificates, passports, ID cards and marriage certificates must be certified by the Republic of Cyprus District Administration Office.

# **Certified copies**

For paper applications, you should provide 'certified copies' of original documents where the original cannot be provided and retained by the department. 'Certified copies' are copies authorised, or stamped as being true copies of originals, by a person or agency recognised by the law of the country in which you currently reside (usually a Notary Public). **In Lebanon**, the only document, if requested, that would need to be a 'certified copy' is land ownership documents.

We cannot return any documents you provide with your application to you.

# Lodging your application

The quickest and easiest way to lodge and pay for your application is to lodge **online** using <u>ImmiAccount</u>. You can also use your immiAccount to continue a saved application, attach documents, update your passport details, change email and address details and check the progress of your application.

Once you lodge your application, if required, you will be sent a letter asking you to complete your biometrics at our <u>Australian Visa Application Centre</u> in Lebanon.

You must make an appointment to attend the Visa Application Centre

# Fraud and misrepresentation

Required Documents - All applications

If we find that you provided a bogus document or false or misleading information with your visa application:

- we might refuse your visa application
- we might prevent you from being granted another visa for three years and, if your visa has already been granted, we might cancel it.

Remember that you are responsible for the information included in your application, even if someone else completes it for you.

## Visitor visa (subclass 600) - about this visa

This visa has four streams, only two streams are processed in the Beirut Office:

- The **Tourist stream** lets you come to Australia for a holiday, tourism or to visit family and friends.
- The Business Visitor stream is for people travelling to Australia for a short business visit. This includes
  making a general business or employment enquiry, negotiations or going to a conference or trade fair or
  seminar. (Note: 'business visitor activities' does <u>NOT</u> include short-term, highly specialized or nonongoing work or selling goods or services to the public persons intending to do this type of work should
  consider the Temporary Work (Short Stay Specialist) visa Subclass 400)

Further information is available on the DIBP website http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/600- .

Acquired Documents – An applications	1
Complete these forms online now by starting your application online via ImmiAccount	
<ul> <li>A completed and signed Form 1419 – Application for a Visitor Visa Tourist Stream, or</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>A completed and signed Form 1415 – Application for a Visitor visa Business Visitor Stream</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Applicants must provide their own details of their email addresses where asked (do not include your</li> </ul>	
agent's address where we ask you for your address) (we will only contact you by email if you tick the	
box authorising this)	
Payment of the Australian Government Visa Application Charge online or if the Visa Application Charge has	
been paid at a DIBP office in Australia, a copy of the receipt must be submitted. See: Fees and charges for visas	
Copies of the <b>biographical pages</b> of the current passports	
These are the pages with the holder's photo and personal details and the issue/expiry dates. Note: your	
passport must have at least six months left before the expiry date.	
For paper applications only: two recent passport-sized photographs. These photos should be of the head	
and shoulders only against a plain background	

Copy of your individual Census or birth certificate showing the names of both parents	
Copy of your certified Family Census showing your family composition and residence.	
Evidence that you have sufficient funds for your intended stay (recent personal bank statements, pay slips,	
audited accounts, taxation records or credit card limit)	
If your name has changed include certified copies of evidence of name change.	
Evidence of polio vaccination: If you have spent 28 days or longer since 5 May 2014, in any of the countries	
listed below, or in any combination of those countries, you should provide your current certificate of vaccination	
against Polio.	
Countries: Afghanistan, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Israel, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, Syria	
Visitor visa – Tourist stream – Required documents	
If you are visiting relatives or friends, a letter of invitation from your relative or friend in Australia. If your relative	
or friend is paying for your visit, evidence that they have the necessary funds.	
Evidence to show that you are a visitor have an incentive and authority to return to your home country, such as:	
<ul> <li>a letter from your employer stating your length of employment &amp; intention to return to your job</li> </ul>	
• if you are self-employed – copies of company documents for example: valid business registration license,	
import and export permit, bank statements.	
<ul> <li>If you are a student evidence of enrolment at a school, college or university in your home country</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>evidence of immediate family members in your home country.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>evidence of your visa or residence status in your home country, and your right to return.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>evidence of property or other significant assets owned in your home country.</li> </ul>	
• If you are unemployed: Signed letter from your relative or any person confirming their support. Please	
provide evidence that your supporter has funds.	
If you are not staying at a friend/relative's house, evidence of your hotel reservations or planned itinerary	
Visitor visa - Business Visitor Stream – Required documents	
A letter from your employer - stating your position, length of employment and confirming your intended role and	
reason for conducting business in Australia and educational qualifications and what travel costs your employer	
will cover.	
A letter of invitation from host organization in Australia. With contact details of the business parties involved (if	
available).	
Evidence of why you need to visit Australia on business, such as:	
<ul> <li>a letter of invitation from the host organisation in Australia</li> </ul>	
conference registration details	
<ul> <li>a letter from your employer stating the reasons for your visit</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>your itinerary, with contact details of the business parties involved.</li> </ul>	
Documents to show that the company you work for is an actively operating business, such as a business	
registration certificate or annual report.	
Details of previous contacts with Australian business people or organisations.	
Your educational or professional qualifications.	
If you are self-employed: Certified copies of company documents. For example: valid business registration,	
certificate of chamber membership, import and export permit, bank statements, evidence of recent business	
transactions, shipments, contractsetc	
Applicants under the age of 18	
Any child under the age of 18 years who is traveling without either one or both of the parents must provide either:	
<ul> <li>an authorization to travel from the non-traveling parent/s, or</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>A <u>statutory declaration</u> giving their permission for you to travel, or</li> </ul>	
• Form <u>1229</u> Consent to grant an Australian visa to a child under the age of 18 years – Completed by the non-	
travelling parent/s.	
Please note that any of the above documents should be signed before a Notary Public	
You will have to attach copy of your parent's or guardian's government issued identification document (such as	

passport or driver's license) with their photograph and signature.	
If you are younger than 18 years of age and you will stay in Australia with someone other than a parent, legal	
guardian or relative: a declaration signed by the person who will be responsible for you in Australia	
<u>Form 1257</u> , Undertaking declaration.	1
Evidence of enrolment at school, college or university.	
Applicants 75 years of age and over	
• You will be required to undergo a medical examination by a panel doctor nominated by DIBP. We will contact	
you after you lodge your application to advise you of the medical examinations required. To find your closet	
Panel Doctor see: Panel Doctors. For more information on the Health requirement see Health examinations	
Evidence of adequate health insurance for the duration of your stay.	1

# Important notes and answers to frequently asked questions:

# Lodge your application online quickly and easily using ImmiAccount

Submitting your application online via ImmiAccount has many advantages:

- Allows you to apply and pay for a visa application 24 hours a day 7 days per week
- Save and continue an online application at any time
- Attach documents without the need of postage or visiting our Visa Application Centre
- Check the progress of your application
- Update your application details online
- Get a copy of your application at any time

For further information including tips for attaching documents, document size limits and troubleshooting see our website at <a href="http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa/Immi#">http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa/Immi#</a>

# The Australian Visa Application Centre in Lebanon

The Australian Visa Application Centre (AVAC) managed in partnership with TLS Contact.

The AVAC collects Biometrics (fingerprints and photo) from all clients applying for Australian visas in Lebanon. All paper visa applications for Australian visas must also be lodged at the AVAC.

The AVAC will charge a fee for these services which is payable in Cash Only (in LBP).

If you are paying the Visa Application Charge at the AVAC this is only payable in Cash Only in USD. Please ensure you have the correct currencies with you.

Visa applicants and persons required to submit their biometrics should make an appointment prior to attending the AVAC.

Appointments for clients to lodge their visa applications and submit their biometrics can be made online: https://au.tlscontact.com/lb/BEY/page.php?pid=appointment\_booking

Appointments can also be made by contacting the call centre in Cairo Egypt:

- Telephone +20 233 313 301 (9.30 am to 5.30 pm Sunday to Thursday)
- Telephone +961 1 994 666 (8.30 am to 3.00 pm Friday- for urgent calls only)

For more information on the Australian Visa Application Centre, please follow this link: <u>https://au.tlscontact.com/lb/BEY/index.php</u>

#### How long will it take to process my application?

We publish our current global processing times online. The new processing time information will give you an indication of the time it will likely take to finalise a <u>complete</u> application. Global visa and citizenship processing times are updated monthly, providing you with an indicative timeframe for processing applications. Two processing times are displayed, indicating how long it is taking to finalise 75 and 90 per cent of applications submitted globally.

You can view processing times on our website at <u>www.border.gov.au/about/access-accountability/service-</u> standards/global-visa-citizenship-processing-times.

We do not respond to status-related enquiries that fall within the published processing times. You should wait until after the processing time has elapsed before contacting us. If you lodged your application online, you can monitor the status of your application through <u>ImmiAccount</u>.

**Note:** Applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis. Some individual circumstances may cause applications to fall outside the published processing times.

All applicants are in similar circumstances, we are unable to expedite one application above others. All noncitizens applying for visas to Australia are considered on their individual merits against the legal requirements set out in Australia's migration legislation. These requirements include mandatory health, character, and national security checks that are undertaken by other agencies. Some of these checks can take some time to complete.

However, if you have any significant information to add to the application or if there has been a material change in the applicant's circumstances that might have an impact on the visa application, please notify the case officer as soon as possible sending an email to <u>immigration.beirut@dfat.gov.au</u>

#### My need to travel is URGENT

If you have compassionate or compelling circumstances that would warrant urgent processing of your application please provide a statement with your application explaining your circumstances. Please also email a copy of the statement and any supporting evidence after you lodge your application to <u>immigration.beirut@dfat.gov.au</u> for us to consider – Please ensure you mark the email URGENT. Please note not all requests can be accommodated.

## I am taking my family with me, can they be included in my application?

You cannot include your family as dependents on your application; they must apply for a visa in their own right and pay the applicable Visa Application Charge (VAC). Generally, if they are accompanying you but not 'engaged in business activity', they should apply for a Visitor Visa Tourist Stream (subclass 600). If they will be engaged in business activity then they will need to apply for a Visitor Visa (Business Visitor Stream) subclass 600.

# What if I want repeat visits and long stays in Australia?

If you would like to migrate or spend longer periods in Australia, you should explore more appropriate visa options. For more information please visit: <u>http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visi/Long</u>

#### About your visa – Label free

We electronically record all visas issued to non-citizens providing them permission to travel, enter and/or remain in Australia. The Australian Government does not provide visa labels. When you receive your Australian visa you are issued with a visa grant notification letter that explains the conditions of your visa including period of validity and entry requirements. You should retain this for your own reference and may

wish to carry it with you when you travel as it contains important information about your visa. The information contained within the visa grant notification letter will help you check your visa details online using the department's Visa Entitlement Verification Online service, known as VEVO.

## Other important things to note:

- **Do not** provide original documents that cannot be returned to you unless requested. You should provide 'certified copies' of original documentation.
- **Do not** book airline tickets for travel to Australia unless your visa has been granted. The Department cannot assume responsibility for meeting deadlines imposed by your proposed travel arrangements.

## Do I need to have a health examination?

Generally, applicants for this visa are not required to have a medical examination. A medical may be requested if you:

- are likely to enter a hospital or health care area, including nursing homes, for any purpose
- are over the age of 75
- present any indications you may not meet the health requirement

The department uses an online health system to record your health examination results and conduct your health assessment. Generally, medical examinations can be conducted only after a visa application has been validly lodged with the Embassy. After the application is lodged, the case officer will provide you with a "Health Assessment" letter (by email). The Panel Physician will need to see this letter as part of the medical examination process and you should take the letter with you when you go to the Panel Physician for your examination.

# How to send additional information or documents

If you did not include all documents when you applied, send them as soon as you can:

- via your ImmiAccount if you applied online.
- **by hand**: to the Australian Visa Application Centre, you will need to make an appointment first and a fee will be charged for this service

## Persons exempt from Visa Application Charges

Government employees travelling for business 'acting as a representative of a foreign government' – Nil Visa Application Charge – Nil VAC

For Subclass 600 Visitor, applicants are entitled for a 'nil' VAC if they are applying for a visa in the course of 'acting as a representative of a foreign government'. In most cases, such persons will identify themselves at time of application by presenting a diplomatic, or official, passport. However, the 'nil' VAC applies equally to applicants presenting other types of travel documents if they can demonstrate their representative status.

# Applicants who wish to be considered for a Nil VAC should submit a letter from their government agency / Ministry supporting the application and outlining the purpose for their visit to Australia.

## Persons exempt from providing biometrics

Government officials acting as a representative of a foreign government

- Officials of foreign governments (recognised by the Australian Government) when travelling to Australia in the course of acting as a representative of a foreign government.
- Not exempt:

- Accompanying family members (unless nil visa application charge arrangements have also been extended to them)
- $\circ$  Local government officials representing their state, province or other local political entity.