HOW DO I BRING MY FAMILY TO AUSTRALIA WHILST I AM STUDYING?

Most student visas allow you to bring your family members to Australia as your dependants if you are:
- eligible for streamlined visa processing
- assessment level 1 or 2
- or
- assessment level 3 or 4 and your course is longer than 12 months or you have been in Australia for 12 months or more.

**Eligible Family Members**

Eligible family members include your partner and you and your partner's dependent children:

**Definitions:**

**De facto partner**
A person is the de facto partner of another person (whether of the same sex or a different sex) if:
- they have a mutual commitment to a shared life to the exclusion of all others
- the relationship between them is genuine and continuing
- they live together or do not live separately and apart on a permanent basis and they are not related by family.

For an application for a Student visa the de facto relationship must have existed for at least 12 months immediately preceding the date of application.

**Dependent child**
The child or stepchild of yourself or your partner who has not turned 18 and is not married, engaged to be married or in a de facto relationship.

**Fully funded student**
A student whose travel, tuition and living expenses are paid by one of the following:
- the Australian Government or an Australian state or territory government
- the government of a foreign country
- a provincial or state government of a foreign country (with the written support of the national government)
- a multilateral agency
- Examples: United Nations, World Bank or Asian Development Bank or an organisation gazetted by the Minister.

**Spouse**
A person is the spouse of another person if the two people are in a marriage that is legally valid in Australia and:
- they have a mutual commitment to a shared life as husband and wife to the exclusion of all others
- the relationship between them is genuine and continuing
- they live together or do not live separately and apart on a permanent basis.

**Partner**
A partner is your spouse or de facto partner (including same-sex partners).

**How can your family members come to Australia?**

Your family members can apply to come with you to Australia in the following ways:

They can apply to join you in Australia as your dependants.
They can apply for a Student Guardian visa.

If they plan to study in Australia, they can apply for a student visa in their own right.

**How to Apply for Dependent Family Members to Join You**

You can apply for eligible family members to come to Australia as dependants in one of two ways:
- by including them in your student visa application
  - [See: Visa Options](#)
- by applying for them to join you after you have started your course in Australia.

**Important:** You must declare all family members on your application, **even if they do not plan to travel with you to Australia.** If you do not do this, your family members will **not be eligible** to apply to join you after you have started your course in Australia.

**Application process**

The table below outlines the three-stage process to apply for family members to join you after you have started your course in Australia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student in Australia</th>
<th>Completes the relevant parts of the following forms.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>See:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Form 919 – Nomination of student dependants</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Form 157A – Application for a student visa</td>
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<td><strong>Note:</strong> Student must then send the forms to the family member outside Australia.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Family member outside Australia</th>
<th>Submits the completed forms and the documentation required to the nearest departmental office overseas and pays the application fee.</th>
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<td><strong>Note:</strong> Applicants from People’s Republic of China or Pakistan or Afghanistan should contact the Student Visa Centre (South Australia).</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If you are lodging a paper-based visa application in certain countries you will need to provide biometrics.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Departmental Office | Inform the family member that: further information is required or a decision has been made. |

For Further information visit the website - [http://www.immi.gov.au/students/students/bringing_family/how-to-apply.htm](http://www.immi.gov.au/students/students/bringing_family/how-to-apply.htm)

**Sending documents with your application**

If you are applying for your dependants to join you in Australia after you have started your course, you will need to provide the following:
- Form 919 Nomination of student dependants
- Form 157A Application for a student visa
- an original letter from the education provider stating:
  - the course you are studying
  - the duration of the course and your expected completion date
  - if you are satisfying course requirements
  - evidence that you have enough money to support your dependants in Australia
  - evidence of your relationship with your dependants in the form of officially issued birth and marriage certificates
  - evidence of school enrolment for your school-aged dependants
  - evidence of health insurance for each dependant.